

## Chapter 5

### RAHAB the BRAVE HOSTESS

The main focus of Joshua 1 is to call us to be strong and courageous! In chapter 2, the drama unfolds and we see courage in action, so here is the synopsis: Secret Israelite spies are in Jericho. The king is searching for them so they hide on the roof of an immoral woman's house. She helps them escape through her window. Our heroine is the very strong and courageous Rahab the prostitute.

How could this woman with a questionable profession have been brave? Strong? Courageous? She knew that to help the spies was a crime punishable by death, and by defying the king she was betraying her own country. She knew who she was - her reputation and her reality - but she had heard stories about the God of Israel, and decided to put her trust in Him. This is what she said to the spies:

*"I know that the Lord has given this land to you and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting because of you. We have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed. When we heard of it our hearts melted and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below."* Joshua 2:8-11

Rahab's fear of God made her fearless. And then she was able to live by faith.

In the Bible, fear refers to being overwhelmed, controlled by something. The Lord doesn't want us to be overwhelmed by anxiety and worry, but to be overwhelmed with the wonder of His greatness; to be controlled by His love. Rahab was overwhelmed in the good way! She feared the Lord. She was amazed by His power, and the miracles He had done and this moved her into action. She wasn't afraid of the king, or consequences of aiding the spies - she lived in awe of the Lord. And when Jericho burned to the ground, she and her family were saved. In all of this we see Rahab learning to walk by faith before she was married, and then she not only became one of the power wives of the Bible, the Lord also gave her a godly legacy.

God rescued Rahab and made her radiant. He saved Rahab from her life as a prostitute and brought her and her family into the Israelite family. Then she married Salmon the Israelite and became the great, great grandmother of King David - and Christ was born from the line of David 28 generations later. What a Lord we serve that He would not only save us from our sin, but also entrust us with special callings - as He did Rahab, from whose lineage came Jesus.

There are so many things to be fearful about in this life. There are fears of opportunities in the instability of our husband's job, of the moving from team to team and place to place, of our coach's reputation in the community based on wins and losses - so many things to trust God about! But let me encourage you:

*Psalm 27:1 "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"* Whatever your past, your current situation or future challenges, the Lord is "God in the heaven above and in the earth below."

## WRAP IT UP

1. **FIGHTING FEAR:** Rahab had to have been terrified - she had everything to lose in helping the spies; however, she gives us a powerful example of what it looks like to fight fear with fear. Her fear of God and understanding of His greatness, gave her strength to fight her fear of man and do what was right. Has God ever asked you to do something that terrified you? In those times, has your view of God and His ultimate power given you strength to obey? Or do you struggle to see God as all-powerful?

Ask the Lord to give you a healthy fear of Him.

*“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge...” - Proverbs 1:7*

2. **FINDING FAITH:** Rahab had heard the true stories of the greatness of God, and this helped shaped her view of God. This is a great encouragement for us to seek to know God through His Word. As we read stories of His power and His love, our understanding of God's character grows, and so will our faith that He won't let us down. But it's not just about the stories - it is a personal relationship with Jesus that changes everything. We also need to remember that the Lord is patient and wants us to tell Him when we are struggling with faith and fear. “Cast your cares (anxieties) before the Lord for He cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7). So in this, God's Word and prayer, we can grow in our faith. Do you spend time reading God's word for yourself and praying to Him? Do you feel comfortable doing these things?

Ask the Lord to provide someone to encourage you in your walk with Him, and someone you can encourage as well.

*“Let us know; let us press on to know the Lord; His going out is sure as the dawn; He will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth.”- Hosea 6:3*

**PRAYER:**

*Lord, You call us to an adventure with You that can be overwhelming. Help us to be brave. Help us to seek to know You through Your word and prayer. Help us to remember who You are - Your Power and Might - and obey in faith. Amen!*