

The Story of Rahab – Joshua 2 & 6

Start by reading Joshua chapter 2.

What does Rahab know of God?

In what way is her knowledge different to that of others in Jericho at the time?

Why do you think she responds differently to others in Jericho?

Reflection: People often say “If there was proof” I would believe. How does this story help us to re-think that view? What does it say to us about the importance of Old Testament history as evidence for faith?

What was Rahab risking by welcoming the spies into her house? What was she risking by hiding them and then letting them go? Which was the biggest risk do you think?

How did the two spies know to trust Rahab? Would it have been a wise decision to go into a prostitute's house?

In exchange for their safety, what promise did Rahab want from the two spies? Who was to be included in this promise?

Rahab asks for a covenant promise, perhaps from her knowledge of the Passover events. How confident was she that such a promise would be kept? How could she trust the spies, who were in fact her enemies come to destroy her city?

Reflection: Why did God have to use a woman like Rahab – surely there would have been more suitable and morally upright people better suited to help? How does this give us an insight into the nature of grace? How also does it help us better understand the nature of sin?

If it was known by others that the two spies were in Jericho, why was not more done to help capture them?

Given what Rahab is able to share with the spies about what the people of Jericho knew of God's people and their recent victories, why did the people of Jericho continue to resist and think that they could stand against God's purposes?

How confident are we that God's purposes cannot be thwarted?

Reflection: Many people struggle to read these stories where there is so much destruction and violence. Why did Jericho need to be completely destroyed? What is it about the reality of God's judgement that we find so difficult to understand? How does this story relate to Jesus' death on the cross?

Have a look at Jericho chapter 6.

Why is Rahab's rescue so important?

Why do Rahab's family share in her rescue, even though they played no part in the saving of the spies, or at any point indicate that they share Rahab's faith in God?

What does this teach us about grace, faith and works?

Reflection: The people of Jericho refused to bow the knee, even though God's almighty power was known to them. Where do we see that today? What do we need to do in a world where people are blinded or simply refuse to acknowledge Jesus as Lord of all creation?