# I Believe

# "Do You Believe That God Can Use Sinful People?" Hebrews 11:30-31 – June 19, 2022

### **Our Sermon Series**

	I BELIEVE				
Exploring What You Believe from the Bible's Hall of Faith					
Date	Message Title	Hebrews	Faith Hero		
April 17	Do You Believe in the Resurrection?	11:1-2	Jesus		
April 24	Do You Believe That God Created Everything?	11:3	You		
May 1	Do You Believe in the Rapture?	11:4-6	Enoch		
May 8	Do You Believe in Noah and the Flood?	11:7	Noah		
May 15	Do You Believe in Miracles?	11:8-16	Sarah		
May 22	Do You Believe in Surrendering to God?	11:17-19	Abraham		
May 29	Do You Believe God Holds Your Future?	11:20-22	Patriarchs		
June 5	Do You Believe God is More Important Than Money?	11:23-27	Moses		
June 12	Do You Believe in Divine Intervention?	11:28-29	Moses		
June 19	Do You Believe God Can Use Sinful People?	11:30-31	Rahab		
June 26	Do You Believe That You Have Enough Faith?	11:32-40	Daniel		
More GF messages can be found at WhatIsGrace.org/Watch					

# My Questions Regarding Rahab's Story (Heb. 11:30-31; Joshua 2)

# 1) Why did the writer of Hebrews list Rahab's

occupation? (Hebrews 11:31)

- To give us hope! If a prostitute can be forgiven through faith, then so can I. Nothing you have done is so bad that God cannot or will not forgive you as you place your faith in Him.
- To give us hope! If God can use a prostitute as part of His plan to take the Promised Land, then he can use you and me!
- Application #1 There is hope for me!!! I choose to turn to God and trust Him with my past, my life, and my purpose. Jesus, please forgive me and use me.

# 2) Why did Joshua send only 2 spies? (Joshua 2:1a)

Because 2 was the # of believing spies back in Numbers 13-14

1st Attempt to Enter Promised Land	2 <sup>nd</sup> Attempt to Enter Promised Land
Numbers 13-14	Joshua 2-6
Leader = Moses	Leader = Joshua
12 spies sent in	2 spies sent in
Land flowing with milk and honey	Land flowing with milk and honey
Giant people in the land	Giant walls in the land
10 unbelieving spies; 2 believing spies	2 believing spies
DID <b>NOT</b> TAKE THE LAND	TOOK THE LAND

Joshua learned from the mistakes of the past.

- AA definition of insanity: "Doing things the way you've always done them expecting to get different results."
- Application #2 In what area of my life am I "doing things the way that I've always done them expecting to get different results"? What past mistakes do I need to learn from? With God's help and power, I am going to...

#### 3) Is it ever OK to lie? (Joshua 2:1-7)

- Rahab lied to the king of Jericho. Is it OK to lie?
- Jim's take: Just because something occurs in the Bible does not make it right or wrong. To determine whether something is right or wrong, the Bible must comment on it. (Example: David and Bathsheba)
- The Bible makes it clear that lying is wrong (Exodus 20:16; Psalm 58:3; Proverbs 6:16-19; 14:5; 21:6; 29:12; 30:8; Ezekiel 13:8; Ephesians 4:25; Colossians 3:9-10).
- One of the messages of Joshua 2 seems to be: No matter who you are or what you have done, it is never too late to have faith! God is willing to get His hands dirty. God can use lying prostitutes to accomplish His purposes! God can change your life... no matter what your circumstances!
- Is it OK to lie? I don't think so, but Jesus did tell His followers...
- Matthew 10:16 I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.
- Application #3 Is there a situation where God is calling me to be "street smart" in the midst of the wolves? What does it look like for me to be "street smart" while trusting God with the outcome?
- playmakersinthefaith.org/

# 4) How did Rahab become a believer in Yahweh? (Joshua 2:8-13)

- By hearing of His fame and renown from afar (rumors) and believing in Him. She was calling Him by name (LORD = "Yahweh").
- John 20:29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen Me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."
- Application #4a Will I respond in faith without actually seeing Jesus with my own eyes?
- Jim's Prayer: "Oh that the unbelieving world would believe in Jesus Christ as they hear about what He is doing in my life and church."
- **Isaiah 26:8** Yes, LORD, walking in the way of Your laws, we wait for You: Your name and renown are the desire of our hearts.
- Application #4b What am I trusting God for in my life and church that only God can do? What are we trusting God for such that, if He answered, the unbelieving world would sit up and take notice and prostitutes like Rahab would hear and become believers?

#### 5) Why a scarlet cord? (Joshua 2:17-21)

- Tying the scarlet cord in her window was an act of faith that saved Rahab (and her family's) life when Jericho was destroyed.
- But why a scarlet cord? I believe God was giving us a picture...
  - Reminder of Passover When the blood of a sacrificed lamb was applied to the doorframe, the first-born son was saved from death.
  - Foreshadow of the Cross When the blood of Jesus Christ shed on the cross is applied by faith to your life, you are saved from sin and death – forgiven of your sins and given eternal life.
- John 1:29 Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!
- Hebrews 9:22 Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.
- John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.
- Rahab's prayer as she tied the scarlet cord in the window: "Lord, I've heard of what You have done in the past, and I believe. Please save me and my household from the destruction of Jericho that is about to happen."

<u>Ap</u>	<u>plication #5</u> – As a symbol of my prayer, I am going to tie my
sca	rlet cord somewhere memorable and pray
	For my salvation: "Lord, I've heard of what You have done
	on the cross, and I believe. Please save me from my sins,
	forgive me, and give me eternal life."
	For my marriage: "Lord, I've heard of what You have done,
	and I believe. Please save my marriage, breathe life into it,
	grant us oneness and Your best for our marriage."
	For my child: "Lord, I've heard of what You have done, and I
	believe. Please rescue my child from her downward path and
	save her into Your best for her."
	For my finances: "Lord, I've heard of what You have done,
	and I believe. Please rescue my finances and provide for me.
	For my job: "Lord, I've heard of what You have done, and I
	believe. Please rescue my job and grant me fulfillment in it."

I believe. Please rescue my health and heal me."

• Video: "Seen" [4:23] found at <a href="https://urbana.org/video/seen">https://urbana.org/video/seen</a>

# 6) What ever happened to Rahab?

 She married Salmon who ends up building Bethlehem. She gave birth to Boaz who married Ruth who gave birth to Jesse who was the father of David through whom came the Messiah Jesus Christ (Ruth 4:13-22).

☐ For my health: "Lord, I've heard of what You have done, and

- Rahab is the great, grea
- Application #6 If God can use a prostitute from Jericho to achieve His awesome purposes, then He can use you and me!!!!!!

#### A Rahab Prayer

Lord, I am no better than Rahab. I have sinned in shameful ways. But I receive Your forgiveness and cleansing through Jesus Christ for all my sins and mistakes. Thank You, Lord! And now, I make myself available to You as Rahab made herself available to You. Use me however You desire. I pray Isaiah 26:8 and say, "Yes, Lord. I will walk in the way of Your truth. I will wait for You. Because Your name and Your renown are the desire of my heart." Have Your way in my life. Fill me. Use me. For Your glory. For Your renown!

<u>Sermon Series Application</u> – When my life is over, what do I want my faith epitaph to be?

My "By Faith" Epitaph
By faith