

The Scarlet Line

Joshua 2

Hey everyone and welcome back to another online church service, this week we have traveled out of the book of numbers, where in the end, Moses dies, and the story picks back up with Joshua, leading the people into the Promise Land. The book of Joshua is all about courage in the face of fear. In fact, the main verse in this book is found in Joshua 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

This theme is found through the book of Joshua, and this message is found through the whole bible. 366 times the bible says "do not fear" as if one for each day of the year, and an extra one for a leap year. And as we walk through the book of Joshua in the reading plan, we will get a glimpse at what **fear mentality vs faith mentality** looks like. God doesn't always expect fearless faith from us, in Joshua, God teaches his people to have faith in the presence of fear. because, sometimes fear in the right things, can even produce faith in the right places.

If you have your bibles, we will be in Joshua 2 where we will encounter a pagan prostitute name Rahab. And because this woman feared her own destruction, she put her faith in the God of Israel, so he rescued her. Through the storyline of the bible, we will see that she gave birth to Boas who married Ruth, and gave birth to Obed the father of Jesse, who was the father of King David, all leading up to the birth of Jesus. Every story we will learn this year, will help us see the bible as one biblical narrative that leads us to Jesus. So, you see, God not just saved Rahab's life and her family, but he also grafted her into the family line of Jesus.

In Heb. 11:31 records her in the hall of faith, "By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient." This woman displayed her faith by hanging a scarlet rope on her door just as God commanded, so that his judgment may pass by her house. That's why Rahab transitioned from the house of shame to the hall of fame. Don't you see, like Rahab, no matter who you are, or what you have done, you can put your faith in Jesus, because his blood is the scarlet thread that was shed on the cross, and if you believe that in your heart, then you may also escape the final judgment and become a part of his family.

That's why I have titled this message "**The Scarlet Line**" because we will discover that God is searching for faith, and we have to decide wither or not we are found inside his scarlet line when judgment comes.

Today I want to share with you 5 practical actions through the testimony of Rahab in Joshua 2. And I hope that this truth can allow God to **transform you from the house of shame to the hall of fame?** If you feel like you are too late to be saved, or too lost to be found, or too sinful to change. This is the story for you.

So, if you want to write this down, 5 actions for you to take, to allow God to **transform you from the house of shame to the hall of fame?** Basically, how to be rescued by God in the days of judgment to come. And I don't know about you, but I think the church needs to start getting ready for his return.

Transform from the house of shame to the hall of fame

1. Receive Godly people into your life (v.1-3)

Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies from Shittim. "Go, look over the land," he said, "especially Jericho." So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there. 2 The king of Jericho was told, "Look, some of the Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land." 3 So the king of Jericho sent this message to Rahab: "Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, because they have come to spy out the whole land."

It's interesting that 2 secret spies encounter a woman living in secret. Scholars have said that the language here indicate that she was not just a prostitute, but the innkeeper of the brothel. That's how she was able to invite them into her home.

Unlike the locked gates and thick walls of Jericho, Rahab was open and welcoming to the spies of Israel. It was first, her hospitality to godly people that allowed her to have faith. Rahab was a woman that understood she needed help and needed to let people in. So many times, I have seen how fear and shame have prevented people to open up and receive Jesus.

This is also a reminder to the church that our job is to reach out to lost people. It wasn't Rahab that initiated the spies to come to her house, but it was the 2 spies that came to her door. We all want people to be saved, but "how can they believe in the one whom they have not heard, and how can they hear without someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent?"

Like Joshua sending the spies on a mission, Jesus is also sending you to hard places to reach lost people.

Look at how Jesus says it in Luke 10. "Jesus appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. 2 He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. 3 Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves."

So who is it that Jesus is sending us to? To anyone that is willing to receive and welcome us. So ask yourself, is there someone that you need to reach out to this week and check up on them? And if you are that lost person, if you are struggling with a secret shameful action or living in fear of a situation, I invite you to receive godly council and advice into your life? Please feel free to reach out to me or any of the leaders. Because **receiving godly people** and allowing them to speak into your life, may just be what you need to help you transition from the **house of shame to the hall of fame**.

2. Assist God's mission, even if it's costly (v.4-7)

4 But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. She said, "Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from. 5 At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, they left. I don't know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them." 6 (But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under the stalks of flax she had laid out on the roof.) 7 So the men set out in pursuit of the spies on the road that leads to the fords of the Jordan, and as soon as the pursuers had gone out, the gate was shut.

Alright, it never occurred to me before that the king of Jericho knows the head prostitute and apparently, she lives right in front of the city gates. It just shows you how sinful and wicked this city was. See, men don't just go to Jericho for business, this is the place they go to commit adultery and cheat on their wives. This is a wicked city and later God will send his judgment on all it's people. But like a merciful God he always sends warnings and prophets to give people a chance to repent and change.

We see that when the king of Jericho called for Rahab, her faith was tested. Now she was given an opportunity to stand with the king of Jericho or the God of Israel. So she chose to protect the spies and misdirect the guards. This is a big deal because if she got caught, they would have killed her, but **she decided to assist God's mission, even if its costly**. This is faith in action.

A lot of Scholars struggle with this passage, and I did also, because it seemed like she had to lie to do the right thing. But in her defense, in her conceal the truth, she was able to display her

faith. A lot of time our lies does the opposite, our lies conceal our faith and twist the truth. Her actions were justified. In the book of James, he also picked up on this when he said, “²⁵ In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? ²⁶ As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.” James 2:25

James is teaching us that like Rahab, real faith involves actions. It involves service in the ministry, it involves praying for our brothers as sisters, it involves **assisting God’s mission, even if it’s costly**. Soren Kierkegaard, a philosopher and religious author who wrote a lot of books on fear and courage says, “*For without risk there is no faith, and the greater the risk, the greater the faith.*”

Rahab’s actions say so much about her faith. So what does your action says about yours? The next time you give offering, or standing up for justice, or just forgiving someone, or going on a mission trip. Your actions say a lot about your heart and who it trusts. Your actions will also reveal to you weather or not you are still living in **the house of shame or the hall of fame**.

3. Hear the mighty acts that God has done (v.8-11)

During a midnight heart to heart session, Rahab said to the spies that she has heard what God has done and she express her faith in him. she says, “I know that the Lord has given you this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. ⁸We have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea⁹ 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.

What is significant about this confession is that she has heard that God has delivered these people out of slavery and rescued them from other nations. And she declared “***I know the Lord has given you this land***” So she even knows the promises of God.

As you can see, her fear in the right things, produce faith in the right places. She confesses in verse 11. “When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone’s courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.”

When we are able to hear, and know how big our God is, and his mighty powers, we wouldn’t need to fear anything else. Neither the giants in Cannon nor the king of Jericho. Neither the struggles today nor the future tomorrow. Won’t you take some time and just hear to the mighty acts that God has done? Psalms 106 is basically the cry of Rahab and should also be our confession of faith, it says, “Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord or fully declare his praise? ³ Blessed are those who act justly, who always do what is right. ⁴ Remember me, Lord, when you show favor to your people, come to my aid when you save them, ⁵ that I may enjoy the prosperity of your chosen ones, that I may share in the joy of your nation and join your inheritance in giving praise. ⁶ We have sinned, even as our ancestors did; we have done wrong and acted wickedly.⁹He rebuked the Red Sea, and it dried up; he led them through the depths as through a desert. ¹⁰ He saved them from the hand of the foe; from the hand of the enemy he redeemed them.

I’m telling you, if God has saved you from slavery of sin and delivered you from your enemies, people will hear about it, and they will want to get to know your God. that’s why as believers we live in such a way that represent our God. and to declare his mighty acts to others so that they may **hear** and also believe. People need to **hear** how you have been delivered from the house of shame into the hall of fame.

4. Admit your sins to God and others (v.12-18)

Repenting of your sins is critical in the Christin faith, because only then can you leave the house of shame. In this next passage Rahab confessed that she needs to be save from death. ¹² “Now then, please swear to me by the Lord that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign ¹³ that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them—and that you will save us from death.”

The bible tells us that we must admit our wrong doings, admit that all have sinned and deserved death as our punishment. And also know that “***if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.***” 1 John 9.

After Rahab asked for deliverance “So she let them down by a rope through the window, for the house she lived in was part of the city wall.

And as they were leaving, the spies said to her, “This oath you made us swear will not be binding on us¹⁸ unless, when we enter the land, you have tied this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you have brought your father and mother, your brothers and all your family into your house.”

So the men said to her that she and her whole family would be safe inside the house if she ties the red cord in the window. Now I want you to think about this carefully, Rahab is a prostitute that owns a brothel, this lifestyle was her home. Now the spies ask her to bring her father and mother, her brother and all her family into that house. I think this must struck Rahab as much as it should struck us. “*You mean she have to completely expose her sin to her whole family? Why couldn’t she tie red ropes on their houses?*” I think as Christians there is an openness and transparency in true repentance, because before God there is no condemnation and among the church family there should be no judgment. When you realized that your sins are completely exposed, and yet God forgives you completely, you have encounter grace. He is able to transform your house of shame into the hall of fame. Before God, we are fully known and yet fully loved. That’s why as believers there is a freedom to **admit our struggles and failures to God, and each other**, and this will also help set others free as well.

5. Believe in the only sign that can save (v.17-21)

Now as the spies shimmy down the city wall, they made a deal with her. d

So it’s simple, she ties a scarlet line on the window as a sign, the spies said, “if anyone dies because they are outside the house, it’s their fault. But if anyone is harm inside the house, then it would be our fault, we will take the blame.” This is there insurance policy. And of course, because of her faith, she did exactly what she was told and tied the scarlet cord on the window.

This action of faith echoes back to Egypt when Moses told his people to put blood on the doorpost and anyone who had the blood on their house would be spared from judgment. This scarlet thread is a **sign** that blood is demanded and must be paid for our sins. Rahab was spared because someone else will have to die in her place. That is what this scarlet line represents.

That’s why the **gospel** is about the name of *Jesus, worthy is the lamb that was slain for us, son of God and man, You are high and lifted up, that all the world will praise your great name.*

Do you **believe in the one sign that can save**? Like the command to Rahab, if anyone of us is found inside of his scarlet line then we are safe from the power of sin and death, because Jesus took it on the cross and buried it in the grave. If you confess with their mouth that Jesus is King and believe in your heart that he shed his scarlet blood for you. than you will be save. This gospel message is the only sign that can save you.

Rahab was transformed by God through her faith and her name was recorded in the bloodline of Jesus to produce faith in you. You see, nature forms us, sin deforms us, schools inform us, the world tries to conform us, but only Jesus can and will transform us. Change us from the inside out. From the house of shame to the hall of fame.

So, if you need transformation power, remember Rahab.

1. **Receive Godly people into your life (v.1-3)**
2. **Assist God’s mission, even if it’s costly (v.4-7)**
3. **Hear the mighty acts that God has done (v.8-11)**
4. **Admit your sins to God and others (v.12-18)**
5. **Believe in the only sign that can save (v.17-21)**

This scarlet line spells out Rahab, because of these 5 actions her whole identity was transformed. And her **name** was written down as a testament so that you can also be changed by the message of the Gospel. By what Jesus has done for you.

So I pray that you take this to heart, and follow these 5 practical actions this week. And to see what God will do. Thank you and have a bless day.