



## Session 5 | The Escape and Courage to Move Forward | Joshua 2:12-24

[INTERESTING NOTE: Some believe **Rahab** is in the family line of Jesus. They get this from Matthew, chapter 1:5, “And Salmon begat Booz of *Rachab*; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth” and it may very well be this is the same **Rahab**, but we should take note that, except for this mention in the genealogy of Jesus, whenever Rahab the person is mentioned in the Bible she is referred to as **Rahab the harlot**. It is possible the **Rahab** in Matthew 1:5 is a different **Rahab**. Regardless, God used a prostitute to bring salvation to His people in the book of Joshua.]

We pick up in this session in chapter 2, verse 12. The spies had entered Jericho **secretly**, perhaps as *craftsmen selling earthenware vessels* (see session 3 notes). They have been noticed. Rahab *the harlot*, has hidden them under stalks of flax on the rooftop of her brothel; She has lied to the king’s men in Jericho and sent them off on a wild goose chase; and she has revealed to the spies that she is a believer in the **God in heaven above, and in the earth beneath** (see vs. 11).

Verse 12,13—

**Now therefore**, that is to say *Now because I am a believer in the True God, and I have shown you kindness (or loyalty), make a pledge that you will do the same to my family by giving me a true token, or a sign, so that I can believe, you will deliver our lives from death.*

Verse 14—

The spies agree to save her life, even if it means losing theirs **if ye utter not this our business**. The spies are certain **the LORD hath given us the land**, and when they win, they will **deal kindly and truly** with the harlot and her family.

Verse 15—

**Then she let them down by a cord through the window**. The Jewish rabbi, Rashi, has stated that by using the definite article *she let them down by the cord through the window*. That is, by the same cord and the same window, when the city was taken (Joshua 6:22), the spies entered to save the harlot and her family.

Verse 16—

**Rahab** had sent the pursuers toward the **Jordan** the logical direction the spies would have gone in order to return to their camp, but she again has quick thinking and tells the spies to **head for the mountains; and hide yourselves there three days**. Why **three days**? The text doesn’t tell us, except was this the same three days Joshua spoke of in 1:11? Had word reached Joshua that the spies would return in three days with a good report?

Verses 17-21—

The spies give their departing words to **Rahab** as they descended from the window. **Scarlet thread**, some commentaries say the **scarlet thread** represented the *blood of Christ* that would be shed centuries later and that salvation comes only through the shed blood of the Savior; and while this is true, I think we should note that Rahab and her family were not saved by the thread, but by their faith in the God of Israel. Verses 18 and 21, the word is **line**, which is the Hebrew word *tiqvah* which is a word that means *to look for, or hope*.

We should be careful of being superstitious when it comes to the scarlet thread. Rahab had faith in the covenant promises of God and it was because of that she was saved from death; and she had to perform a work (of tying the thread, or line to the window) to show it.

Today, our faith does not rest in an action or item, like taking communion, or being baptized, but rather belief in the person and work of Jesus Christ. No work or proof is necessary, in fact anything other than belief is meaningless.

Verses 22-24—

**Truly the LORD hath delivered into our hands all the land**. What an amazingly different report than the spies who went into the land forty years earlier! (Numbers 13:27-14:1). Rahab’s declaration in verse 9, brought hope, “Terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you.” She not only brought hope to her family, but she also gave great encouragement to Joshua and the army of Israel!

Earlier I posed the question of whether or not the Rahab in Matthew 1:5 was the same **Rahab the harlot**. We don’t know. There is, however, ancient Jewish tradition that claims later after the capture of Jericho, Rahab the harlot married Joshua and became the ancestress of great priests and prophets, among them Jeremiah. That is pure speculation, but if that were true, it would rule out the Rahab of Matthew, in the line of Jesus, being Rahab the harlot.

God led Rahab in a great way.

We too can bring hope to those around us when we trust in the Lord. Will you be an encouragement to those around you? in your home? In your place of employment? In your church? Will you trust in Jesus our Lord?

