

## A Harlot's Faith

Ponder: Can a harlot be saved by faith?

Scripture: "By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace" (Heb. 11:31, NKJV).

What names would you expect to see in a listing of outstanding examples of faith? Noah? Of course. Abraham? Certainly. Joseph? Undoubtedly. Rahab? Um, well, no! After all, Noah and Abraham and Joseph were, for the most part, virtuous men. But Rahab? We know what she was, and "virtuous" isn't exactly how we would describe her. Yet the Holy Spirit moved the Hebrews writer to record her name right along with the others in "inspiration's hall of fame"!

I doubt that we fully appreciate the depth and strength of Rahab's faith in God. She grew up among the idolatrous Canaanites. Grossly immoral behavior like hers was one of the reasons God was expelling the Canaanites and giving the land to Israel. But when she heard what the Lord had done for Israel in Egypt and in the wilderness, she realized that Israel's God was real, so she put her trust in Him.

Human wisdom would say when the spies came to her house in Jericho (Joshua 2:1-3), she ought to have turned them over to the king as He demanded. That way he could extract information from them about Israel's army, plans, etc., and perhaps put together a coalition with other Canaanite cities to resist the impending invasion.

Even after the Rahab made her agreement with the spies and they departed, human wisdom would say, "Hedge your bets!" She ought to have told the king what she knew so he could prepare. That way she still had her agreement with the spies in case Israel succeeded in taking Jericho; but if the Canaanites repelled them, she would be seen as a heroine.

But Rahab acted by faith, not by human wisdom. Therefore she and her family were saved when God gave Jericho to Israel. Rahab turned from her fornication, married an Israelite man, and became one of the ancestors of Jesus (Matt. 1:5).

Yes, God can save even a harlot by faith!

Song: "It Is No Secret What God Can Do"

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we marvel at Your wisdom and grace in extending Your mercy to sinners like Rahab and like us. Help us to reject human wisdom and walk by faith. In Jesus' name, Amen.