

Rahab

Vice or Victor?



Who is Rahab?

- A Canaanite woman living in Jericho.
- A prostitute who lives in the wall of Jericho.
- Primary financial provider for her family.
- “Outsider” in the community.
- Smart.
- Believer in the God of the children of Israel.

Marginalized x 3

- 1. Canaanite – outside Israel's camp.
- 2. Prostitute – despised by community.
- 3. Woman – unmarried, without worth.

Rahab's Story

- Joshua 2:1-24
- Hid the Hebrew spies.
- Lied to king's men to protect the spies.
- Confessed belief in God.
- Asked for favor.
- Obtained promise of safety.
- Helped spies to escape.

Rahab and the Spies

Joshua 2:1-24



A Little Background Info

- Israel nation camped 6 mi E of the Jordan
 - Camp at Shittim, site where hanky panky with Moabite women had gone on before (Num 25:1-5).
- Joshua, commander of the army and former spy, sends two men on reconnaissance of the land.
- Capture and destruction of Jericho crucial to future of Israel in Promised Land.
- Spies hit the town and went directly to house of prostitution! Hmmmm...

“Pretty Woman”

- Rahab, a “secular prostitute” or *zanah*
 - Merely an innkeeper?
- Prostitution in ancient world result of abstract poverty or indebtedness.
 - Tolerated, but not recognized by community.
 - Rahab, primary money maker for family-no mention is made of father, husband, brother
 - Rahab’s house within the wall, least protected.

Rahab's Voice

- Safety of the spies is in Rahab's hands, city gate is closed.
- Risks her life and family in her lie. She is dispensable, not worth much.
- Disclosed political situation in the land to the spies, "inhabitants" or *yosebim* means, "ones who sit." Rulers of the land fear the children of Israel.
- Rahab knew the story of the deliverance of the Hebrew people. Through traders, clients?
- Confession of faith confirms presence of God with Israel. Connection made between Israel & Rahab.

Flight By Night



“The Flight of the Spies”

James Jacques
Joseph Tissot

“The Great Escape”

- *Chesed*, practice of exercising responsible caring – covenant making.
- “Sign of good faith” – spare Rahab’s family
- Rahab’s survival (family) linked to survival of the spies.
- Let them down the wall by a rope.
- Spies tell her to tie crimson cord in her window and gather family in her house.
- The spies obey Rahab’s instructions and live.

Questions to Ponder

- What does the crimson cord in the window remind you of in the story of Israel?
- Does Rahab experience her own “Passover” in this story line? (Josh. 6:17, 22-25)
- Why was she (and immediate family) placed on fringes of the camp?
- Why do you think the author included Rahab in this story?
- What is the underlying theme of this narrative?

Vice or Victor?

- Prostitute
- Liar
- Shrewd businesswoman
- Foreigner, outside the covenant
- Savior of nation of Israel
- Great-great grandmother of King David.
- Lineage of the Messiah.
- Hero of the faith (Hebrews 11:31)

Coming Next Week to Roebuck Chapel...

Judith: Hero or Heroine?

Homework: Read Book of Judith in the Apocrypha.

Copies available today.