

Hebrews 11:31 By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.

The New Testament points us to Rahab for her example of faith. She was given mercy because of her belief. Why is her faith an example to us?

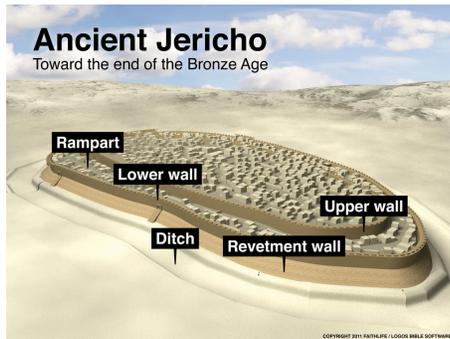
The Bible says that the hearts of the people of Jericho "melted." The people of Canaan were melting in fear because of Israel's reputation. Instead of fearing the people of Israel, Rahab turned to the God of Israel in faith. **God's power changes hearts.** Is your heart changed? Rahab's life was completely changed because of God's grace in her life. I want you to ask yourself this question as we examine Rahab's life: "Is my life exhibiting a complete change of heart?"

Tonight, we will observe the life of Rahab in order to see some **effects** that God's power has on the hearts of man.

I. God's power concerns sinful hearts.

A. Rahab knew that Israel's God had given her people's land to Israel. Jericho built a wall system that was supposed to be

impenetrable. Rahab knew that there are no walls too thick for God.



B. Rahab knew there was no escape from God's judgment except by turning to God.

Rahab knew that she could not rely on herself. She could not save herself. No other man could save her. There is no power to match Him God.

The heart of all of those in Jericho melted. They were all afraid, but they didn't all have the same response as Rahab. What made her different? She was concerned about the coming judgment, and she was converted.

II. God's power converts sorry hearts.

She was truly repentant for her sin. She heard about the Lord, and she heeded the warnings. She called God by the name Jehovah - His covenant name. The one true God. He is the God in heaven and on earth. God is God of everything. The Canaanites worshipped many gods. They worshipped many idols.

A. Rahab forsook all other gods for the One True God.

Seeing God's Power changed her heart. She forsook all other God's.

B. Rahab forsook her former lifestyle for the One True God.

She is often referred to as Rahab the harlot. She lived a wicked lifestyle. She was immoral. Something got her attention and changed her life forever. It was God and His power. She forsook who she used to be in order to chase after God.

III. God's power cares for steadfast hearts.

She showed faith in God and she was blessed for it.

A. Rahab and her family were delivered from the destruction of Jericho.

Matthew 1:5 And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse;

B. Rahab was family to the Savior of the World. The Messiah was her descendant.

Rahab is held up as an example of one whose heart and life was changed by the forgiveness of God. Her actions proved that her faith had changed her heart. **James 2:24-25** Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. ²⁵ Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?

God's Power changes hearts!