



Prove It!
James 2:18-26



Our Theme For The Year:

***Allow Your Faith
Through Works
To Be Seen In
2018***

Verse 18

But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.”

- “You profess(*announce*) that you have faith in God”
- James says “I don’t boast about my faith, but I allow my faith through works to speak for me!”
- “My works are the undoubtable evidence that my faith exists, because my faith *flows through my works.*”
- “*My faith is evidentiary!*” *Hebrews 11:6*

James Says That If You Have Faith:

***YOU HAVE
TO PROVE
IT!***

**James Gives Two Practical Examples Of The Faith
God Requires Of Us
Abraham and Rahab**

Verse 25

“Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot (prostitute) also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”

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- How did Rahab come to her faith?
 - How would she come to believe in the one true God if He hadn't revealed Himself to her?
 - Since God is no respecter of persons, I would conclude that he gave the same opportunity to the rest of the city.
 - However, the only one in that city that showed faith in God was a woman who worked in a bad profession with a bad reputation. She and her family were the only ones spared when the Israelites destroyed Jericho.

Observations

- Rahab lived in Jericho, a depraved city, so corrupt that when God commissioned the city to be destroyed, he decided that anyone who tried to rebuild it would be condemned and their firstborn son would die. Joshua 6:26 (In 1Kings 16:34 it happened)
- Just as in Noah's day, God destroyed the world by a flood, and the only one who believed in the one true God was Noah (Matthew 24:37-39)
- What we learn from this is that in the world, believers are in the minority and have to contend with the majority and therefore must be willing to go against the flow

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- It's much easier to go with the flow and do what society (friends) wants us to do than to resist the temptation of being what people expect of me
 - It is not easy to persevere when there is so much opposition, but that is what God calls us to do and He gives us the power to do, but we have to stay committed
 - We ought to be motivated by those who went before us, overcame the obstacles, and were victorious (that's one reason God left these stories for us) Romans 15:4

Hebrews 11:30-31

“By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days. By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.”

How is woman who was a prostitute and a liar commended in the Bible as having the faith that God wants us to have?

Joshua 2:1-7

“Now Joshua the son of Nun sent out two men from Acacia Grove to spy secretly saying, “Go, view the land, especially Jericho.”

So they went, and came to the house of a harlot named Rahab, and lodged there. And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, “Behold, men have come here tonight from the children of Israel to search out the country.”

Joshua 2:1-7

“So the King of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying, Bring out the men who have come to you, who have entered your house, for they have come to search out all the country.”

“Then the woman took the two men and hid them. So she said, “Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from. And it happened as the gate was being shut, when it was dark, that the men went out. Where the men went I do not know; pursue them quickly, for you may overtake them.”

Joshua 2:1-7

(But she had brought them up to the roof and hidden them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order on the roof.) Then the men pursued them by the road of the Jordan, to the fords. And as soon as those who pursued them had gone out, they shut the gate.”

Observations

- Some scholars have suggested that she was an innkeeper and her place of lodging was located near “the gate” or entrance into the city
- But you can’t remove the fact that her name is associated with prostitution from the reality of the text (it says what it says)
- But the fact that she did have obvious sinful ways helps us to appreciate what God can do with us if we live in faith
- It would make sense that the spies would look for a place close to the entrance into the city where travelers obviously would naturally go, and the spies would simply be among the hotel folks

However the spies were spotted and reported!

Observations

- So the King sends some men to Rahab's place
- Then Rahab lies to the King's men to protect the Israelite spies which raises several questions:
 - How can she be commended by God?
 - How can she be included in the Heroes of Faith in Hebrews 11?
 - James 2:25 calls her righteous. How can that happen?

Greater Men Than I Have Debated This Passage

- Some say she lied for a more noble purpose
(Situation Ethicist)
- Some have said that her lie protected God's men, who would have been killed
- But at the end of the day, a lie is still a lie

Observations

- Remember that in this story Rahab is commended for her faith and not her ethics
- It is true that her faith in God moved her to hide the spies
- It is true that she was risking her life with her faith

Observations

- I'm sure she did what she thought was necessary at the time (Remember she is new in the faith and God never condones lying)
- On the other hand, did Rahab's faith prompt the encounter with the spies so that God could save her and her family? God sees and rewards our faith (Hebrews 11:6)
- What's also interesting is that she acted on faith before there was a promise from the Israelite spies about her family's protection

Her Confession of Faith

Joshua 2:8-11

“Now before they lay down, she came up to them on the roof, and said to the men, “I know that the Lord has given you this land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you. For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt,....”

Joshua 2:8-11

“and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. And as soon as we heard these things our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.”

Rahab Knew That It Wasn't Israel, But God, That Was Responsible For The Power Of Israel!

Verses 12-15

“Now therefore, I beg you, swear to me by the Lord, since I have shown you kindness, that you also will show kindness to my father’s house, and give me a true token, and spare my father, my mother, my brothers, my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death.”

Verses 16

“So the men answered her, “Our lives for yours, if none of you tell the business of ours. And it shall be, when the Lord has given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with you.”

*“Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was on the city wall;
she dwelt on the wall...”*

As a Result Of Rahab's Visible Faith

- Rahab was spared and lived as an Israelite
- She married an Israelite name Salmon
- She had a son whose name was Boaz, the father of Jessie, who was the father of King David who was a descendant of Jesus Christ

Question:

- Have you taken on the identity of what other people say you used to do?

Let A Life Of Faithful Actions Change Your Identity!

The Plan Of Salvation

Hear the Gospel Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins Acts 17:30

Confess Christ Acts 8:37

Be Baptized Acts 2:38