



INTRO

What differences do you notice between Moses' & Joshua's sending of spies?

What did you think when you first read of the spies going to the house of a prostitute?
How might that have been a wise decision in spying out Jericho?

FAITH THAT TRANSFORMS US...

1. ...Emerges from our darkest sin and deepest brokenness

It seems that Rahab placed her faith in God before she totally stepped away from prostitution and before she had ceased from deceiving others (e.g. lying re: spies)

- Are you (were you) tempted to feel that you must become a better person, know more or "clean up" before giving your life to God? Why is (was) that?

Read **Romans 5:8**. How may this shape our group's attitudes to sinful, broken people?

- If you are *now* a Christ-follower, are there some "not-yet believers" around whom you aren't comfortable? (whom you would rather they change *first* then come to Summit?)

Holy Spirit convicts of sin (John 16:8). Many Christians try to do His job (poorly). Yet, we are exhorted to restore a bro/sis who is caught in sin (Galatians 6:1).

- How do we live in this tension in a God-honouring, people-loving way?

2. ...Declares our allegiance to the one true God

Rahab believed, "...**the LORD** (Yahweh, I AM) your God, **He is God** in the heavens above and on the earth beneath." (Joshua 2:11b). On Sunday, Gerry stated that not only did she declare her total allegiance to the Lord, but (in her last phrase) also renounced all of the many deities and territorial gods of Canaan.

- How may full devotion to the Lord transform more than acceptance of multiple gods?
- What difficulties arise with syncretism? (trying to live, synchronizing multiple faiths?)

Read **Exodus 20:3-6, John 14:6, Acts 4:12, 1 John 5:20**.

- How are these messages of "the Kingdom of God" at odds with the message of "the kingdom of Canada"?
- How do we live this conviction with both a total devotion to Christ & His Kingdom, yet with the loving wisdom of Christ?

3. Inspires our engagement in action and good works

Gerry stated that Rahab had *real, authentic* faith (this was not just the manipulating plan of a questionable woman to escape death).

- How was Rahab's faith and devotion to the Lord revealed? by what various actions?

Read **Hebrews 11:31** & **James 2:20-26**.

- What does the Spirit affirm thru these writers?
- How does *your* faith reveal itself in tangible ways?
- Discuss some new ways you/your group could demonstrate your faith during COVID?

4. ...Roots our identity in God's covenant love & people

Gerry stated that Rahab not only declared her faith in the Lord, she asked for more, using the covenant words Yahweh towards the people to whom He has bound Himself. It is the HEB word "*hesed*". — read **Deuteronomy 7:6-9** (*vs.9, "...*who keeps covenant and steadfast love...*"). She asks not only to be dealt kindly with, but desires to be "in" on God's *hesed* love and to be numbered among His people.

- When was it that you came to experience deep in your soul that you were "in"?
- How have you/do you continue to experience the deep steadfast love of God?
- How does this experiential understanding of being a deeply loved child of God affect your identity? your following Jesus? your ministry? your work?

An inseparable aspect of God's *hesed* (covenant love) is that you are brought into a covenant people. Contrary to popular western thinking, it is not just "your personal relationship with God" that is most important.

- How ought this truth affect your relationships with others "in" on God's covenant?
- where does this prove to be a challenge for you?

Rahab was a Canaanite, not Jewish. It is interesting that the very first act of the covenant promised land, was that someone of another nation/race is extended grace.

- How is this significant in fulfilling God's promise to Abraham?
- What responses might the Israelites have had to her presence in their community?
- How does this speak to or challenge our group/Church?

PRAY:

Pray for one another to walk with "**strong. courageous. faith.**" in a culture that is increasingly antagonistic to those who do not proactively affirming all faiths.

Pray for our Church, that we continue to make room in our hearts for all people

Pray that we express our faith in action and good works this week