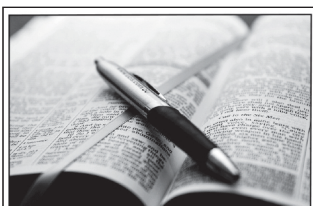


Rahab: From the Ranks of Heathendom

Over the last couple of months we have been in a series on “The Heroes of the Faith” here at Grace. It has been an excellent study on a diverse group of men and women who had one thing common – Faith.

God was able to use people who had shortcomings, failures, and frailties. Such is the study we have today that will focus on Rahab.

Most Bible students would label Rahab with the term ‘harlot’ because that is who she was. Now, you might ask, why would God choose to put Rahab the harlot in the ranks of the rest of the heroes of the faith? The simple answer is she had the ability and willingness to do the work



JUST A THOUGHT

Rev. Tom Mansbarger



of God. She was the one who hid the two spies that went out to seek the Promised Land. If it hadn't been for her work, they might have been killed.

We see here a picture of

a street-wise woman who became a lover of her kindred. She chose to put her own life in danger to protect the spies. This also made her a traitor to her king. We might say that she was gifted with insight above all her fellow citizens. Even though she possessed a crude faith, she knew that the God of Israel had brought them a great deliverance.

As we look closer at this story it gives us great insight into the faith Rahab possessed:

1. Saving Faith – This is the faith that puts the wheels into motion. Because Rahab had a dim understanding of what was going to happen, she put her trust in Jehovah God.

This is a powerful principle for each of us. Saving faith is what gets us started on our journey with God. Everything starts at salvation. We don't have the means on our own. It is only by the power of God that He begins the work in each of our lives.

2. Singular Instruction – You may be thinking that this is a strange term, but it is simple. Rahab never received any instructions from her parents or anyone else because she was living in a pagan country. Her knowledge would have been very slim because there were no influential spiritual powers to teach her. What makes this story so astounding is that Rahab was a woman of

such character. You wouldn't think it very likely that she would become a believer in Jehovah because she was a harlot.

3. Her Faith was Active – We can easily say that her faith was active mentally. When she believed in Jehovah, she began to think. She was also active in her own sphere. Even in her own home she was able to serve the Lord. We can all understand that no matter what we do, we can be an instrument in His work. We also know that she performed to the best of her ability. She probably didn't have a whole lot to offer, but she was willing to do it. We also see that Rahab was active at a great risk.

Hebrews 11:31

We see a beautiful story of a woman of ill-repute who becomes a member of the ‘Heroes of the Faith.’ She displayed a very stable faith with no thought about her own well-being. This story is one that can bring hope to each and every one of us, showing that God can use any of us if we will only avail ourselves to His will. God is and has always been looking for a few good men and women. Will you step up and heed the call of God doing what you can to move the Gospel along?

The Rev. Tom Mansbarger is senior pastor at Grace Community Church. He offers free counseling. Reach him at 765-517-1187 or tom@graceccmarion.org.

Salamonie Fall Fest Oct. 16-17

Officials at Salamonie Lake are hosting Salamonie Fall Fest on Oct. 16 - 17 within the framework of the State's guidance for event planning, including social distancing, mask requirements, hand-washing and sanitizing of program materials this year.

Events include a variety of activities open to the public: Kettle corn as a fundraiser for UWIS Friends group, 8-9 p.m. on Friday. On Saturday, live bird of prey program at 11 a.m.; pumpkin decorating at 12:30 p.m.; and Arts in the Parks “Soundscapes,” from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

This year, however, because of COVID-19, if trick-or-treating occurs at park properties, it will be only for campers and other overnight guests. Entrance to Salamonie Lost Bridge West Recreation Area is restricted on Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m.

“We know that families from local communities enjoy visiting to trick-or-treat and get a look at all the decorated campsites,” said Ginger Murphy, Deputy Director for Indiana State Parks, “but in the interest of safety for everyone, this is one of those traditions we are putting on hold for a year.”

All celebrations will incorporate safety guidelines developed in conjunction with the State's COVID-19 Executive Orders and Back on Track Plan.

Check the DNR calendar for great outdoor programs for everyone at calendar.dnr.IN.gov.

Check for campsite availability at camp.IN.gov or call 866-622-6746.

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