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Unlikely Heroes: Rahab – Harlot to Heroine

In our Journey of faith as we continue to discover, define, develop, & deploy into the MISSIONS POSSIBLE through God in our church, homes, & throughout our community, we will encounter people that the Lord has uniquely & amazingly positioned in places that will encourage, educate, assist, & provide examples of faith. You'll have to keep your eyes open though, because they might not be what or who you'd expect. But sometimes it's the UNLIKELY HERO that is exactly who is needed.

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 1:25-31; Joshua 2

Rahab was an unlikely ally & unexpected hero & example of faith.

- ❖ Who is Rahab?
 - Rahab was a gentile. She was citizen of Jericho. She was a successful business woman (her home was prime real-estate on the outside wall of Jericho with a view of the mountains) in the prostitution business.
 - 'Rahab the harlot' Her name & resume used together
 - **NOTE:** people will remember you, not just by your name... but by your reputation!
WHAT reputation do you have from those you meet?
 - Rahab was a harlot but her future would not be determined and defined by her past.
 - She became the Great Great grandmother of King David making her part of the lineage of Jesus. Matthew 1:5
 - She married Salmon – a prominent leader in the tribe of Judah, who some believed founded Bethlehem. 1Chr 2:51
 - Woman of Faith. She is mentioned among the great Heroes of Faith in the Bible. Hebrews 11:31, James 2:25

Hero of Faith – Joshua 2

- ❖ Hebrews 11:31 "She welcomed the spies in peace."
 - **She didn't allow the stress of her environment contaminate her emotional disposition.**
 - Joshua 2:11 the hearts of the people were "melting" yet she was in peace.
 - There is peace in faith. **In the midst of an overwhelming situation... She responded with faith and peace.**
 - She spoke & showed kindness hiding/encouraging the spies.
 - Joshua 2:24 the spies report of her words encouraged Joshua and fueled his faith.

- Joshua 2:12 – she showed kindness & asked for kindness chêsêd– used throughout Bible to describe the Lord's nature
 - As the people of God, don't just be kind to others. Let's show them His loving Kindnesses.

Lessons of Faith

- ❖ No matter what your resume says, God can do something amazing through you. Rahab's resume said, "Harlot". God turned it to Heroine.
- ❖ She Heard, She Believed, She Responded in Faith Joshua 2:9-10
 - Faith really is that simple: God said it. I believe it. Therefore, I respond and change because His Word settled it for me.
 - What do we say we believe in our life of faith but hasn't impacted how we live? Review - last week Mental Assent.
- ❖ She responded in faith.
 - Turning her back on a life & lifestyle that was all she knew. That is called repentance. She embraced the LORD and learned to be something NEW. 2 Corinthians 5:17
 - Took a Strong Stand by the Lord. Risked it all. She put her life & the lives of her entire family on the line... at what she accepted as the WORD of the LORD.
- ❖ She worshiped God on HIS Terms, following the instructions of the spies. Joshua 2:18

How to Become a HERO of Faith

- ❖ Never give up in a dire situation.
- ❖ No matter your past, know it is NOT too late. The plan of God is greater than your failures.
 - Don't allow your past to keep you from making a FUTURE with God. It's what you choose TODAY that makes a difference with the Lord. Deuteronomy 30:19
- ❖ Don't trust in natural walls (things) for your protection. Trust God.
- ❖ Stand steady when the world is screaming. Obedience is easy when the ground isn't shaking. In the midst of the shaking of life... hold on to the safety and salvation that the Lord provides.
- ❖ Faith is incomplete without works. James 2

God will use the most unlikely heroes to teach us. He'll also use us as unlikely heroes to teach, live (display) & inspire faith for others. Regular people still do remarkable things.

The Lord is working to strategically place us to be unexpected heroes, will you answer the call?