CAPITOL COMMISSION
Gospel Hope & Spiritual Strength for Government Leaders

MOPray

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Weekly Bible Study Schedule | Tuesday, February 11, 7:00-7:45 AM | HHR #3
Capitol Commission is NON-PARTISAN and MULTI-DENOMINATIONAL

INTRODUCTION
From the crossing of the Red Sea, to crossing the Jordan River, to the fall of Jericho, the story demonstrates God is faithful to His covenant. He is the sovereign LORD leading and guiding His people. Chapter two of Joshua continues the theme of God's redemptive plan as seen through Rahab, a woman who placed her faith in God evidenced by her confession that Israel's God is the supreme God, and by protecting the two spies on mission. Essentially, Rahab played a role in the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel.

2:1a – Then Joshua secretly sent out two spies from the Israelite camp at Acacia Grove. He instructed them, "Scout out the land on the other side of the Jordan River, especially around Jericho."

JERICHO
Located in the Jordan Valley near the Jordan River posits Jericho as the first major city to battle. A strategic land, agriculturally fertile due to its climate, and a hub for business, made Jericho an economic engine in the ancient Near East.

A city with multiple walls some of which residents embedded their homes. Jericho's walls were formidable and nearly impossible to penetrate by enemies in a natural state. Tethered to a culture known for its immorality, idolatry, and worship rituals, such as child sacrifices, made it conducive for a dark dwelling in direct opposition to God's commands and His people. Jericho was a city under God's judgment (Genesis 15:16; Deuteronomy 18:9-12). Jericho's destruction (Joshua 6) demonstrated God fights for His people. Israel obeyed God's commands trusting He would fulfill in Joshua what He promised to Abraham.

Israel was on a divine mission to establish a holy nation distinct from the other nations. A nation with God as their provider, protector, and forever presence. So nations would recognize and acknowledge God is the LORD of the whole earth.

2:1b – So the two men set out and came to the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there that night.

SPIES
Out of the plains of Moab, 12 miles north of the Dead Sea, emerged two spies sent by Joshua to travel west across the Jordan River and into the city of Jericho. They were sent on a specific mission to spy out the city of Jericho in preparation for entrance into Canaan, otherwise known as the Promised Land. The result was successful unlike what happened with Moses and the 12 spies. Only Joshua and Caleb brought a faith-filled message back to Moses. A positive dynamic of Israel's 40 years of wandering was to help the next generation build their faith to complete the task God gave their fathers to do.

RAHAB
Rahab is mentioned five times in the Bible (Joshua 2:1, 6:25; Matthew 1:5; James 2:25; and Hebrews 11:31). Rahab's home was embedded into the city wall with a view outside Jericho. Rahab was both a gentile and prostitute. She provided lodging and favors to travelers. Perhaps the two spies stayed at her home to be mistaken as customers.

Stories of how Israel's God performed miracles: defeating the Egyptian army, crossing of the Red Sea, and victorious battles over kings, caused the heart of Jericho residents to melt. All feared the God of Israel.

2:9-11 – I know the LORD has given you this land…No wonder our hearts have melted in fear! No one has the courage to fight after hearing such things. For the LORD your God is the supreme God of the heavens above and the earth below.

FIGHT or FLIGHT
When a person experiences danger a series of physiological changes occur releasing adrenalin prompting a person to "fight or flight". The inhabitants of Jericho were fearful. Their fear caused them to fight. The king of Jericho enlisted five regional kings from other nations to join them in battle against Israel. But not Rahab, she did neither; Rahab turned to faith in God.

What is producing fear in your life? Will you fight God and others? Will you take flight from your situation? Will you like Rehab turn to God in faith?
God cares about faith not status. Rahab's status was a Gentile and prostitute. She was labeled throughout the city of Jericho. She was not refused redemption because of her status, rather she was granted salvation because of her faith. Your childhood, family, zip code, economics, race, and gender do not prevent you from a relationship with God. Your history and hurts do not hinder God's reach of grace.

> *So Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute and her relatives who were with her in the house, because she had hidden the spies Joshua sent to Jericho. And she lives among the Israelites to this day. (Joshua 6:25)*

FAITH and ACTION
Rahab's faith now defines her, not the past. Our hurts, failures, mistakes do not have to define us. How do you know if someone has faith in God? They obey God's Word revealed in the Scriptures. Rahab was called out of a community of unbelief and into a community of faith that distinguished itself by a new way of life.

I call it the Jesus way. Joshua 6:25 says it: "*And she lives among the Israelites to this day".* The Israelites lived in Covenant with God. Rahab turned from idol worship and sinful rituals to obedience to God's commands and trusted in Him for a redemption promise. Her faith was evidenced by her action (James 2:25).

We too can turn from whatever sin is in our lives. With God's help we can live in the joy of freedom from sin. If your whole "community" of relationships reject God you can turn from rejecting to receiving Jesus by faith. God's will is that none should perish including people in nations under His divine justice, like the Canaanites (2 Peter 3:9). Rahab accepted God's grace through faith thus she and her family were saved.

HALL OF FAITH
Rahab was listed in the "Hall of Faith". God gave her a new identity.

> *It was by faith that Rahab the prostitute was not destroyed with the people in her city who refused to obey God. For she had given a friendly welcome to the spies (Hebrews 11:31).*

From prostitute to royalty, Rahab was the great-great-grandmother of King David and an ancestor of Jesus (Matthew 1:5-6, 16). God's redemptive plan has always been for all people not solely Israel. Jesus is lifted up as the savior who welcomes people from all statuses of life. God can use anyone for His purposes, no matter their past, if they place their trust in the Lord, and surrender their life to His will and ways.

TAKE AWAY
1. Trust in God's Sovereignty
He is always at work. In expected and unexpected ways, in likely and unlikely places, with notable and unknown people, God will provide and be present in your life. He will re-purpose your life and give you a new identity.

2. Put your Faith to Work
Rahab acted on her faith. She hid the spies at great personal risk. Faith is more than words; actions give evidence to faith.

3. God Redeems the Broken
No one is beyond the reach of God's grace. The scarlet cord was a symbol of redemption. The sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus provides forgiveness of sin for all who by faith believe in Him (Joshua 2:18).