



THE WOMEN IN MATTHEW ONE

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Rahab – Joshua 2

Introduction

How many of you have read the Bible all the way through? So, what did you do when you came to genealogies?

The first chapter of Matthew begins with a genealogy! Why does Matthew begin his record of the life of Jesus with a list of names?

Luke is the only other Gospel writer to include a genealogy, found in chapter 3. But there is a noted difference between Matthew and Luke. Matthew lists five women. Luke lists none.

Matthew 1:1 – 5a:

This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:

²Abraham was the father of Isaac,

Isaac the father of Jacob,

Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,

³Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar,

Perez the father of Hezron,

Hezron the father of Ram,

⁴Ram the father of Amminadab,

Amminadab the father of Nahshon,

Nahshon the father of Salmon,

⁵Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab..

Rahab

Joshua 2:1 - 3

Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies from Shittim. “Go, look over the land,” he said, “especially Jericho.” So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there.

²The king of Jericho was told, “Look, some of the Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land.” ³So the king of Jericho sent this message to Rahab: “Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, because they have come to spy out the whole land.”

Joshua decides to send two spies over to Jericho to bring him a report of what they are likely to face when they invade the land and these two spies went to the house of Rahab. Why her house?

Joshua 2:4 - 7

⁴But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. She said, “Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from. ⁵At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, they left. I don’t know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them.” ⁶(But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under the stalks of flax she had laid out on the roof.) ⁷So the men set out in pursuit of the spies on the road that leads to the fords of the Jordan, and as soon as the pursuers had gone out, the gate was shut.

Rahab was actually siding with Israel against her own people! Why?

Joshua 2:8 – 13:

⁸Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up on the roof ⁹and said to them, “I know that the Lord has given you this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in

this country are melting in fear because of you.¹⁰ We have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed.¹¹ When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.

¹²“Now then, please swear to me by the Lord that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign¹³ that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them—and that you will save us from death.”

There are many times in Scripture where God speaks in remarkable and unusual ways to unlikely people—people seemingly distant from the Gospel.

Jeremiah 29:13

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Deuteronomy 4:29

But if from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul.

The reality and the knowledge of the true God is there for any who search with their whole heart.

Romans 1:18 - 20

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness,¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.²⁰ For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

Rahab came to believe in God through the little that she knew about him. She bargains with the spies to save them if they will save her and her family when they come to invade the land.

Joshua 2:14 – 16

“Our lives for your lives!” the men assured her. “If you don't tell what we are doing, we will treat you kindly and faithfully when the Lord gives us the land.”

¹⁵So she let them down by a rope through the window, for the house she lived in was part of the city wall.¹⁶ She said to them, “Go to the hills so the pursuers will not find you. Hide yourselves there three days until they return, and then go on your way.”

God had a reason to send those spies over ahead. God had chosen Rahab and her family and he would do whatever was necessary to reach her and offer her salvation.

When Jesus was accused of eating with sinners and questioned as to why he hung around with that crowd, Jesus said:

Luke 5:31 – 32

“It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

Aren't you glad? Jesus goes out of his way to reach those who seek him with their whole heart.

Joshua 2:17 – 21

¹⁷Now the men had said to her, “This oath you made us swear will not be binding on us¹⁸ unless, when we enter the land, you have tied this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you have brought your father and mother, your brothers and all your family into your house.¹⁹ If any of them go outside your house into the street, their blood will be on their own heads; we will not be responsible. As for those who are in the house with you, their blood will be on our head if a hand is laid on them.²⁰ But if you tell what we are doing, we will be released from the oath you made us swear.”

²¹“Agreed,” she replied. “Let it be as you say.”

So she sent them away, and they departed. And she tied the scarlet cord in the window.



If Rahab did not put that red cord through the same window that she helped the spies escape, she would have died along with all her countrymen. And if she didn't bring her family into her home, they would not be spared.

This, of course, also applies to the blood of the Lamb of God, Yeshua the Messiah. If we fail to accept his salvation (offered to us at the cost of his own life), we will perish. Rahab has been recorded in history for all time, and over 3000 years later, we are still talking about Rahab and her faith.



Hebrews 11:31

By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.

James 2:25

In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction?



Here's the report the spies brought back to Joshua:

Joshua 2:22 - 24

²²When they left, they went into the hills and stayed there three days, until the pursuers had searched all along the road and returned without finding them. ²³Then the two men started back. They went down out of the hills, forded the river and came to Joshua son of Nun and told him everything that had happened to them. ²⁴They said to Joshua, "The Lord has surely given the whole land into our hands; all the people are melting in fear because of us."

God kept his promise to Rahab:

Joshua 6:22 - 23

Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, "Go into the prostitute's house and bring her out and all who belong to her, in accordance with your oath to her." ²³So the young men who had done the spying went in and brought out Rahab, her father and mother, her brothers and sisters and all who belonged to her. They brought out her entire family and put them in a place outside the camp of Israel.

What can we learn from Rahab?

- God chooses whomever he will to accomplish his purpose.
- God chooses the weak and foolish.

1 Corinthians 1:26 - 31

Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹so that no one may boast before him. ³⁰It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. ³¹Therefore, as it is written: "Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord."

- God chooses those who are unqualified.

Not only was Rahab spared, but she believed in their God and married one of their men, Salmon. She and Salmon had a son named Boaz, and here we see Boaz right in the middle of the genealogy of Jesus Christ.

Would you have chosen Rahab?