

/I will now begin with the second lecture on the book of Joshua. / At this time, I will begin the second lecture on the book of Joshua. / The good faith of prostitute Rahab is written in chapter 2.

/Though she had an obscure job, / she knew God. / That is why she helped the servants of God/ when Joshua sent the spies to Jericho.

/If we continue to obey the servants of God, / He also blesses us to meet such a good person. / So, in verses 1-7, / the author wrote the account where Joshua sent the spies to Jericho.

/In verse 1, it is written, / "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.

/Joshua secretly sent spies to the land. / He did it because Israelites had to conquer Jericho before they completely conquer the land of Canaan. / But why did he do it secretly? / The reason is this; they could defeat their enemies by knowing them.

/It goes the same for our spiritual battle. / We have to know the tactics of Satan to defeat him. / Then what is the identity of Satan? / You must know that everything that goes against the Word of God are the works of the devil.

/Satan raises greed in our heart. / He makes us hate and become jealous of other people / Satan also breaks the relationship among believers / and makes them doubt about the Word of God.

/We must know his identity to defeat him. / So, the reason why Joshua sent spies to Jericho / was to gather information regarding Jericho. / The battle could be prepared after they have understood their enemies.

/Then the two spies came to sleep in the house of Rahab, which was located in Jericho. / While they were staying in her house, / the king of Jericho heard of their presence.

/Verse 2./ The king of Jericho was told, "Look! Some of the Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land."

/Verse 3, the king sent messengers to bring out the spies from Rahab's house./ Though Joshua sent them secretly, the king have heard of the news./ Then how did Rahab respond?/ She hid the spies under the stalk of flax she had laid out on the roof.

/Verse 4, "But 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.

/Then she said "go after them quickly. You may catch up with them" to mislead the soldiers.

/Of course, she lied. / Had she told the truth, the spies would have been killed by the king.

/She first thought of the work of God and hid them. / Even today, those who help the work of God would be blessed by God. / We should always help the work of God/ even if there are losses and sacrifices on our sides.

/We must do the work of God first. / What faith did prostitute Rahab possess to help these two spies? / It is well written in verses 8-13.

/First, she wisely hid the spies. / She said these words when the soldiers left the house. / I have sent away/ the men who were looking for you.

/She, at the same time, protected the spies and wisely sent away the soldiers of Jericho. / We must possess such wisdom today. / We need wisdom to have spiritual discernment / and to defeat the schemes of the devil.

/We can properly accomplish the work of God if we possess wisdom. / Second, she believed that the land of Canaan was given to the people of Israel by God.

/Verse 9./ and said to them, "I know that the LORD has given this land to you 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.

/She believed that this land was given to Israelites. / She feared the people of Israel/ because she knew this secret. / Also, Canaanites were melting in fear because of the Israelites. / They were trembling in fear.

/She helped the spies / because she believed that the land of Canaan was promised to the people of Israel by God. / Those who help the servants of God are the ones cooperating with the work of God.

/Furthermore, the faith of Rahab is displayed in verse 10. / Third, she believed God as the God of power./ She believed that the God was a powerful God / who redeemed the people of Israel from Egypt,/ dried up the Red sea, / and destroyed two Amorite kings Og and Sihon.

/The power of God is infinite. / She was knowledgeable about the power of God through mere rumors. / Our God is still in control of every creature and universe. / God is able to do anything He wills.

/He has the power to create universe. / He has the power to revive the dead / and heal the diseased. / So Rahab helped and protected the spies because she knew the power of God.

/Also in verse 11, she believed that God is God in heaven above and on the earth below./ "God in heaven above and on the earth below" means that God is full in the heaven above; / controls every creature in the universe; / omnipotent; /and absolutely sovereign.

/Our God is alive today. / There is no place that God does not exist. / He is the supreme leader who controls every creature in our universe. / We must possess such faith in God to properly serve Him.

/And in verses 12-13, she believed in God as she looked forward to her redemption. / She requested the spies to spare her family when Jericho falls. / She desired her entire family to be saved.

/It is written in Acts 16:31, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household." / In this way, faith of an individual can lead to entire family's salvation. / Hence, Rahab truly possessed a wonderful faith.

/She requested the spies to spare her family when Jericho falls. / That is written in verses 14-21. / But what did spies request from Rahab?

/Verse 14. / "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."

/They requested, 'do not tell anyone about our works'. / They then said, 'if you promise not to expose this, God will redeem you and your family when Jericho falls.'

/There would be negative effects to God's work/ if she exposes it beforehand. / Hence, we must keep the secret of faith. / We must not compromise with the world and damage the work of God.

/A single word could benefit the church or harm the church.

/So we must always be careful not to harm the work of God. / Even though we speak of the truth, it may still be harmful.

/Also, we could harm the church by speaking the right words. / So we must always be careful not to harm the church. / It is right for the believers not to speak of the errors of the church to the world.

/We should cover such errors with love for the sake of evangelism. / Also, we must have wisdom to discern whether our words are pleasing to God or to the devil.

/As I have said, there would be a great damage to the work of God / if Rahab exposed this beforehand. / It could make the conquest very difficult. / Let us assume that we are in war against our enemies.

/What would happen if our enemies have found our secrets before the war? / Without a doubt, we would be defeated by them. / That is why there is top secret in nations.

/In the same way, if Rahab exposes the secret to the Canaanites, it would bring great harm to the people of Israel. / That is why the spies have requested the prostitute Rahab to stay silent.

/Next, in verses 17-18, spies requested her to tie a scarlet cord in the window. / Why did they do that? / They told her to tie this scarlet cord to save her household when Jericho falls.

/The scarlet cord in the window of today's text implicates the way to salvation. / And it is a warning of God's judgment to Jericho and at the same time it is a display of the way to salvation.

/Verse 18. / ... 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.

/One important fact in here is that Rahab immediately obeyed the words of the spies.

/Verse 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.

/She said "Let it be as you say" then obeyed. / Blessed are the people who obey God's servants./ After Rahab sent away the spies, she immediately obeyed and tied a scarlet cord in the window.

/We must immediately obey God's will after we have discovered it. / We would fail to obey it if we constantly put it aside for tomorrow. / In Genesis, God ordered Abraham to offer Isaac as a sacrifice. / Then how did Abraham react?

/Do you think he asked, "God, may I do it after I pray to you?" / He immediately obeyed after God gave him the command. / And for Rahab, she had to tie the scarlet cord right away. / This was necessary because she did not know the time when Jericho would fall.

/In today's times, there are foolish people / who try to delay accepting Jesus when we share the gospel. / "I will believe Him next time." / "Let me first be wealthy." / "I would do it if I have time."

/But no one knows the future. / We must obey today to walk the path of salvation when God gives us the opportunity. / There are so many people who lost such an opportunity because they delayed it.

/Rahab agreed to the request of the spies to receive blessings. / "Since Israelites will destroy Jericho in a short time, / tie a scarlet cord in your window." / "You and your household will be saved even if everyone in Jericho would be destroyed."

/Similar situation occurred when God redeemed the people of Israel from Egypt. / In the final plague that God has poured out to the Egypt, which kind of household did God say He would redeem?

/He protected all the houses that painted the doorframes with the blood of a lamb.

/All firstborns of the houses that did not follow the command were killed. / God protected the houses that painted the doorframes with the blood of a lamb. / Then, what do the blood of a lamb and the scarlet cord signify? / They signify the blood of Jesus Christ.

/Only the blood of Jesus can wash away human's sins. / Only Jesus can save humanity from sin. / There is no salvation through other ways.

/Jesus Christ is the son of God, / our redeemer, / and our savior. / Also, only Jesus is the mediator between us and God. / So, we are saved through the name of Jesus / and our prayers are communicated to God if we pray in the name of Jesus.

/ in verse 18, spies told Rahab/ to stay in the house after tying the scarlet cord in the window.

/Verse 18. / 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.

/"unless, when we enter the land, you have tied this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down," is noted. / "and unless you have brought your father and mother, your brothers and all your family into your house" is further stated. / But why did spies request Rahab's family to come together in her house?

/The reason is this. If the family of Rahab is outside the house while the Israelites conquer Jericho, / they could be killed because people will not be able to recognize them. / They must stay in the house with a window tied by a scarlet cord to be protected.

/Then what does this teach us? / It teaches us that salvation is only through Jesus Christ./ There is life/ and salvation in Jesus Christ;/ and He is our only refuge.

/We must seek refuge in Jesus Christ in the midst of all sufferings and trials.
/Which location do you think is the safest place on earth? / Is it a mansion? / Or is it a cave? / Do you think that you will be safe in the US or in Russia?

/Jesus Christ is the safest place and only in Him there is salvation. / That is why we must always live in Jesus Christ./ Only those who are in Jesus are truly strong and powerful.

/We can enjoy peace without anxieties when we are in Jesus Christ. / So, the spies urged prostitute Rahab not to come out from her home.

/And they requested her to gather her family in the house./ Then Rahab, who came to know God, have passionately helped them./ That is written in verses 15-16.

/Verse 15./ So she let them down by a rope through the window, for the house she lived in was part of the city wall.

/She tied a rope down the window/ to help the spies escape from Jericho. / She chose this method not to endanger the lives of the spies. / She let them down by a rope through the window.

/In verse 16,/ she told men to first hide themselves in the hill for three days/ before going on their way/ because they might meet pursuers if they don't./ She instructed them with wisdom and in detail.

/She instructed them to hide in the hill for three days because the pursuers might catch them. / So the spies have to listen to the instruction of Rahab to survive. / They must not be in haste / or be lazy.

/Rahab knew the surroundings of Jericho very well. / So she wisely instructed spies to protect them. / Blessed is a believer who protects the servants of God.

/Moreover, spies can be safe if they listen to the instruction of prostitute Rahab. / In verses 22-24, spies safely returned to the camp then reported to Joshua.

/Verse 22. / When 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.

/Spies listened to the instruction of Rahab. / They hid themselves in the hill for three days to avoid being captured by their pursuers. / Also, the pursuers failed their search on the way. / The spies were not captured because they were hiding in the hills for three days.

/Whose instruction did the spies obey?/ They obeyed the instruction of prostitute Rahab and they became safe. / A person who will be blessed by God/ even listens to the voice of a weak woman if it is right. / We must listen even to a boy if he speaks about the Bible.

/We can be safe if we listen to advices of a person even like prostitute Rahab./ Many people today refuse to listen to correct advices./ They shut their ears from God's words.

/But believers who want to be blessed by God need mindsets to listen to someone else's advices. / In Acts chapter 16,/ a woman named Lydia appears./ God opened her heart/ so she listened to the words of Paul.

/Then she was transformed. / And through her, her family was changed./ The church of Philippi began through the family of Lydia./ And the gospel was spread through Europe by her family.

/We can change the world by being transformed through obeying the word of God. / Also, these spies patiently hid themselves in the hills for three days. / If they did not do so, what could have happened? / They probably would have been caught by their pursuers.

/So, we must not be in a hurry when doing something. / We must always be careful / and cautious. / We must strive to be led by the guidance of God./ There are many people who failed because they acted out based on their temper.

/So many people are impatient today. / Some become discouraged because their prayers are not answered immediately. / But do not be impatient when you pray./ Of course, God immediately answers some urgent prayers.

/But to some prayers/ God says "wait."/ Why does He do that?/ It is to answer at the best moment./ While people hope that things would be accomplished immediately,/ God says "wait" for the benefit of our faith.

/If spies ignored the advice of Rahab/ and went to the camp after a day/ or two days, / they would have been captured. / Hence, we must always be patient/ and faithfully act according to the guidance of God.

/in verse 23, the two spies went to Joshua and reported everything.

/Verse 23./ Then 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.

/The two spies returned safely to the camp./ It was by the grace of God that they did./ We truly live in this world in midst of various dangers./ It is by the grace of God that we safely live in this world.

/We would surely fall in this world without the aid and protection of God. / And God protected the spies until the end because they followed the guidance of God.

/We will certainly fall and die/ if God does not protect us/ from incidents and accidents of this world. / The spies reported the situation of Canaan to Joshua in detail.

/They fulfilled their responsibilities. / And when we report such things to our superiors, we must properly and sincerely report the truth. / A false report would bring harm to the work of God./ We truly have to report the truth.

/Also, we must do it by faith. / We must report in a way that would benefit the work of God. / And they did. / How did the spies report to Joshua?

/Verse 24. / They said to Joshua, "The LORD has surely given the whole land into our hands; all the people are melting in fear because of us."

/These spies reported the truth. / That is why they said 'The LORD has surely given'. / All works of God are sincere and true. / The spies reported the truth./ They reported what they saw in the land.

/What was their report? / They said, 'The LORD has surely given the whole land into our hands'. / This signifies that they reported by faith.

/"We believe that the land of Canaan is given to us by God, / promised by God, / and will be given to us if we advance through obedience.

/If they had no faith, / they would have reported in a negative and false way / for their safety. / But these spies had faith.

/They not only believed in the promise of God, / but they also firmly believed in the guidance of God.

/"Even if Jericho is formidable/ and their people strong,/ I believe that God has handed them over to our hands."/ "We can conquer this land if we advance by believing in this promise."

/Even today, the people of faith are always positive. / They do not say, "No one can do that. I can't do it. I'm going to die while I do this." / So the spies believed that everything would turnout good if God allows them. / They were sure that the Word of God would be fulfilled.

/We need this kind of faith today. / We have to be sure of the Word of God. / Only those who are confident of God's Word can obey. / We must not doubt when we pray but we must do it by faith.

/Also, the report contained this statement. / “All the people are melting in fear because of us.”/ They reported that “Canaanites are scared of us.”

/Joshua became confident/ because of the reports of the spies. / In this way, we must encourage each other/ and be helpful to other’s faith through our communication of faith.

/These spies who reported by faith/ have greatly contributed to the conquest of the land of Canaan, which was led by Joshua. / And through the faith of prostitute Rahab, she/ and her family were redeemed/ when the Jericho was destroyed.

/This is the end of second lecture on the book of Joshua./ Thank you.