

Learning from Rahab **Heb.11:30-31; Jas.2:14-26**

0.0 Introduction

- 0.1 Surprising teachers: Rahab (Heb.11:30-31), demons (Jas.2:19)
- 0.2 God has a purpose in all; all have some grasp on truth; all imperfect like rest of us
- 0.3 It is what Rahab and demons represent that matters for us now, at most controversial of NT passages (2:24 – justified by works, not by faith alone”)

1.0 What Does Faith Hold for You?

- 1.1 *Everyone* lives by faith in someone or something – always
- 1.2 Some acts of faith are routine: trust that sun rises, water flows from faucet, car runs
- 1.3 Other acts of faith involve trust in people: coworkers to work, surgeon to be competent
- 1.4 On greater level of life: faith involves trust + confidence (Heb.11:1)
- 1.5 In big & small ways, we follow through on what we trust

2.0 How Can Faith Misfire?

- 2.1 Faith seen as ideas or vague trust, but without life habits that go with it (see 2:1-4)
- 2.2 Lethargic life
- 2.3 Each generation has to figure its particular shortcomings
- 2.4 Losing a heart for others (vv.15-16)
- 2.5 Faith without ‘works’ = dead, useless, ineffective (vv.17,20,24,26)

3.0 What Response Is Appropriate?

- 3.1 At heart of our relationship with God: forgiveness, being made ‘right’
- 3.2 Justified by faith alone, yet faith is never alone
 - Abraham’s risk (Gen.22:9-18): “perfected” (v.22)
 - accords with Rom.2:13
 - accords with Rom.4:1-13
- 3.3 “Showing you my faith by my works” (Jas.2:18)
- 3.4 Rahab’s actions (Josh.2,6) confirmed her change of heart // Matt.25:34-35

Next week (March 7) – Like Apples of Gold in Settings of Silver
James 3:1-12; Prov.25:11-13

Hebrews 11:30-31 (NASB)

³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after *the Israelites* had marched around them for seven days. ³¹ By faith the prostitute Rahab did not perish along with those who were disobedient, after she had welcomed the spies in peace.

James 2:14-26 (NASB)

Faith and Works

¹⁴ What use is it, my brothers *and sisters*, if someone says he has faith, but he has no works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,” yet you do not give them what is necessary for *their* body, what use is that? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith also, if it has no works, is dead, *being* by itself.

¹⁸ But someone may *well* say, “You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works.” ¹⁹ You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. ²⁰ But are you willing to acknowledge, you foolish person, that faith without works is useless? ²¹ Was our father Abraham not justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; ²³ and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS,” and he was called a friend of God. ²⁴ You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. ²⁵ In the same way, was Rahab the prostitute not justified by works also when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? ²⁶ For just as the body without *the* spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.