

RAHAB

Text: John 8:2-6

2 Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them.

3 Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst,

4 they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act.

5 Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?"

6 This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear.

Introduction: Does God really love us? How assured are we of God's love for you and I? Have we fully comprehended the depth and width and height of His love? We are faced here in this story with a problem that has reached its tentacles into the very fabric of the Church. All too often, we hear of someone who has fallen into this trap. Paul, in his writing tells us to "flee fornication."

In our text, Jesus is confronted with a woman caught in the very act of adultery. He is also confronted with what the Law has to say. If Jesus of Nazareth is who He says He is, the Son of God, then He has no choice but to agree with what "thus saith the Lord."

What can this woman expect? How will this man, this Teacher of the Law respond to her plight? Are there any factors that might give her hope? There might be something in His past that would influence Him to rule favorably on her behalf. One source would be to look at His lineage.

Matt 1:1:1 A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham:

2 Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,

3 Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar,
Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram,
4 Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of
Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon,
5 Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the
father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of
Jesse,
6 and Jesse the father of King David. David was the father of
Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife,
7 Solomon the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of
Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa,
8 Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of
Jehoram, Jehoram the father of Uzziah,
9 Uzziah the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz
the father of Hezekiah,
10 Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of
Amon, Amon the father of Josiah,
11 and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time
of the exile to Babylon.
12 After the exile to Babylon: Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel,
Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,
13 Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, Abiud the father of Eliakim,
Eliakim the father of Azor,
14 Azor the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Akim, Akim the
father of Eliud,

15 Eliud the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan,
Matthan the father of Jacob,
16 and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom
was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

Did you notice that in verse 5 that Boaz's mother's name is Rahab. I wonder if there is anything about this woman that might affect the thinking and decision making of this man who has literally in His hands the life of this woman caught in adultery.

1. Rahab's Story.

A. Joshua appointed two men to go and spy out Jericho. Josh 2:1 Now Joshua the son of Nun sent out two men from Acacia Grove to spy secretly, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." So they went, and came to the house of a harlot named Rahab, and lodged there.

1. They go to the house of a harlot named Rehab.
2. Word reached the king of Jericho of their presence.

2 And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, "Behold, men have come here tonight from the children of Israel to search out the country."

3 So the king of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying, "Bring out the men who have come to you, who have entered your house, for they have come to search out all the country."

B. But Rahab hid them.

4 Then the woman took the two men and hid them. So she said, "Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from.

5 And it happened as the gate was being shut, when it was dark, that the men went out. Where the men went I do not know; pursue them quickly, for you may overtake them."

6(But she had brought them up to the roof and hidden them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order on the roof.)

C. She shared the faintheartedness of the people of Jericho.

Josh 2:8 Now before they lay down, she came up to them on the roof,

9 and said to the men: "I know that the LORD has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you.

D. She also declared her faith in their God.

10 For 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 the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed.

11 And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.

E. Rahab asked for deliverance for her family.

Josh 2:12 Now therefore, I beg you, swear to me by the LORD, since I have shown you kindness, that you also will show kindness to my father's house, and give me a true token,
13 and spare my father, my mother, my brothers, my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death."

F. The two men agreed to her terms.

14 So the men answered her, "Our lives for yours, if none of you tell this business of ours. And it shall be, when the LORD has given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with you."

15 Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was on the city wall; she dwelt on the wall.

16 And she said to them, "Get to the mountain, lest the pursuers meet you. Hide there three days, until the pursuers have returned. Afterward you may go your way."

17 So the men said to her: "We will be blameless of this oath of yours which you have made us swear,

18 unless, when we come into the land, you bind this line of scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you bring your father, your mother, your brothers, and all your father's household to your own home.

19 So it shall be that whoever goes outside the doors of your house into the street, his blood shall be on his own head, and we will be guiltless. And whoever is with you in the house, his blood shall be on our head if a hand is laid on him.

20 And if you tell this business of ours, then we will be free from your oath which you made us swear."

21 Then she said, "According to your words, so be it." And she

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

G. Joshua instructs the people of Rahab's safety.
Josh 6:17 Now the city shall be doomed by the LORD to destruction, it and all who are in it. Only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all who are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent.

H. Rahab and her household were spared for her kindness to the two spies.
Josh 6:25 And Joshua spared Rahab the harlot, her father's household, and all that she had. So she dwells in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

I. Matthew in his genealogy tells us she married Salmon and became the father of Boaz who was the father of Obed who was the father of Jesse, who was the father of David.

2. The Woman Caught in Adultery.

A. Jesus has gone to the temple -- church.
John 8:2 Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them.

B. While He is teaching, she is brought in.
John 8:3 Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst,

1. The scribes and Pharisees proclaim her guilt.
4 they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act.

2. Can you imagine her shame?

3. They declare what the Law demanded for her sin.
John 8:5 Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?"

C. They tell what the law commanded but they want His

advice.

1. Is there any hope that this teacher of the law will let her go free?
 2. Could this man named Jesus act any different than all the rest who claim to know a loving God Jehovah?
- D. She did not know that the scribes wanted to trip Jesus up.

John 8:6 This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear.

1. What will He do?
 2. How will He react to their pressure?
 3. Is there any hope for someone like her?
 4. The Law must be obeyed.
 5. Why would anyone respond otherwise, especially this man called Jesus of Nazareth under these circumstances?
- E. Jesus just kneels down and writes something on the ground as though He does not hear what has been said.
1. What did He write down?
 2. Could He have written the word - 'Rahab.'?
 3. We do not know but we do know His next actions.

John 8:7 So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first."

- F. I can imagine that the woman caught in adultery braced herself for the first stone.
1. I know she was not ready for what took place.
 2. I also believe that she was not ready for what Jesus did either.

John 8:8 And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground.

9 Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience,

went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

G. All her accusers fade out of sight.

10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?"

1. An astonished adulterer is faced with only one person left who could condemn her to stoning.
2. Jesus is the only One who has not sinned.
3. Listen to His response: "Neither do I condemn you..."

John 8:11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."

Conclusion: Do you know why Jesus would have responded as He did? I believe I have a clue. Her name is great-great-great grandma Rahab.

Based on Matthew 1:5-6, it is possible that Rahab rocked David on her lap. The prostitute of Jericho held King David her heir.

Matt 1:5 Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse,

6 and Jesse the father of King David.

You see Rahab is in the lineage of Christ Jesus. She represents those of us who were guilty of sin and children of wrath. She is like the description given by Paul in Ephesians 2: 2:1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

We were children of wrath deserving God's wrath for our sins.

Eph 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

"BUT GOD" says it all. How could God's Son not let this woman have an opportunity to go free? That is why He came to this world.

John 3:17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

The One who came from the lineage of David could not despise and reject one caught in open sin.

The writer of Hebrews declares of Rahab

Heb 11:31 By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.

Why did Jesus respond to this woman as he did? And why will He respond to your confession of Him?

Eph 2:7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

What is Rahab's message to you and I today? You can believe and be spared the wrath that is to come upon all who do not believe.

Remember, all the words Jesus spoke to the adulterous woman that day because they too must be adhered to.

John 8:11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."

1. Neither do I condemn you!

2. Go and sin no more!

You are guilty of openly sinning against God and yet He wants to forgive you. By His very words spoken in our text, we that are here cannot but respond, as did all her accusers “for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”

Again, let me share the words of Paul to some troubled hearts in Rome:

Rom 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

PRAISE THE LORD!