**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Transforming Power of Faith |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Hebrews 11:31; Joshua 2 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2403 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Rahab is a Champion of Faith who was once a harlot but was radically, dramatically, eternally changed by the power of God.
   2. Hebrew 11:31
   3. Our Lord is in the transformation business, and the greatest power on earth is the grace of God made available by faith.
      1. I Corinthians 6:9-11
      2. Thank God for the transforming power of faith.
      3. Nature forms us, sin deforms us, schools inform us, jails reform us, the world conforms us—but Jesus transforms us.
      4. Jesus changes people: literally, actually, eternally.
   4. Rahab’s plight:
      1. She was a pagan living in spiritual darkness.
      2. She was a harlot living in sinful degradation.
      3. She was a Canaanite destined for sure destruction.
   5. God reached into the heart of this prostitute and saved her.
   6. Rahab’s transformation:
      1. Others around her perished, but her life was spared.
      2. No longer a prostitute, she was happily married to a prince in Israel.
      3. She became the great, great grandmother of King David, Israel’s greatest king.
         1. Rahab, the harlot, is in the bloodline of Jesus Christ, according to the flesh.
   7. She went from the house of shame to God’s Hall of Fame.
   8. Four encouraging evidences of the transforming power of faith in Rahab’s life:
2. the Confronting Power of the Providence of god
   1. Joshua 2:1,4
   2. It was not happenstance that the spies Joshua sent to Jericho came to Rahab’s house.
   3. God’s providence was at work, bringing together believers and someone who wanted to know God.
      1. Rahab had already been under deep conviction, longing to know God and fearing the judgment of God.
      2. God, by His providential mercy, brought these men to her specific house that day.
   4. There are many illustrations in the Bible of God working in this same way for those seeking to know Him:
      1. Phillip and the Ethiopian eunuch
         1. Acts 8:26-29
      2. Cornelius the Roman Centurion and Simon Peter
         1. Acts 10
   5. God will find someone whose heart is tender toward Him, and then God will get a soul winner who’s in the stream of the Spirit, obeying Him, and God brings them together by His providence.
      1. It could be that God is not using you to be a soul winner because you’re not in the stream of the Spirit and He can’t guide you.
      2. Your city is full of people whose hearts are hungry, and God wants to guide you to someone who longs to know Him.
   6. Rahab is an example of God’s providence working on both sides of the equation to bring sinner and soul winner together.
3. the convicting power of the spirit of god
   1. Joshua 2:9-11
   2. Rahab was a woman under great conviction because she saw what God had done for His people.
      1. She saw them marching from victory to victory to victory.
      2. She saw God performing miracles for His people.
         1. Joshua 2:10
      3. She had come to believe there’s no God like Jehovah.
      4. She had come to believe that the only hope was in Jehovah.
   3. Is God doing anything in your life? Can your neighbor, your work associates see any difference?
      1. Not only are we witnesses; we are part of the evidence.
      2. A transformed life is what will convict those around us.
      3. Why should anybody believe in our faith if we’re not different, if the hand of God is not obviously upon us?
   4. On the Day of Pentecost, the unbelievers who were there were amazed to see God at work in a miraculous way in the early church.
      1. Two questions were asked there that day:
         1. Acts 2:12, “What does this mean?”
         2. Acts 2:37, “What must we do?”
      2. A problem many Christians have today: we’re trying to get people to ask the second question before they’ve ever asked the first question.
         1. What is there in your life that nobody can explain, apart from God?
         2. We have no right to say, “Believe in the God who has not even changed my life.”
   5. There is the convicting power of the Spirit of God, when people see what God is doing in our lives.
4. the convincing power of the word of god
   1. For people to be saved, it takes more than them just looking at our lives. They need the Word of God.
   2. Joshua 2: 11-14; 21
   3. James 2:25
      1. The men were more than spies, they were divine messengers. They were speaking the Word of God to Rahab.
   4. Now Rahab is famous for her faith, according to Hebrew 11:31.
      1. Rahab got that faith by hearing the Word of God
         1. Romans 10:17
      2. The Bible says she believed.
   5. If you want faith, study the Word of God.
   6. If you want to inculcate faith in others, give out the Word of God.
      1. When we share the Word of God, that’s what convinces.
5. the cleansing power of the grace of god
   1. Joshua 2:18
      1. In this passage, blood is mentioned twice, and a scarlet thread or cord is mentioned.
      2. It’s a picture of Passover when the Jewish people put the blood of the lamb upon the doorposts and the lintel of the house.
      3. They are testifying of the power of the shed blood, assuring Rahab that all in her household will be saved as long as they are under the blood.
   2. Hebrews 9:22
   3. There is a scarlet thread that runs throughout the Bible:
      1. Adam’s coat
      2. Abel’s lamb
      3. Noah’s sacrifice
      4. Abraham’s ram
      5. Passover lambs
      6. Temple sacrifices
      7. All telling us that the shedding of blood is necessary for the forgiveness of sin.
   4. Every page in the divine Word is stained with the precious blood of our dear Savior, Jesus Christ.
   5. Rahab experienced the cleansing power of the grace of God and received divine protection.
      1. Hebrews 11: 31
   6. She also experienced divine transformation; she was changed.
      1. James 2:25
      2. She was made pure, brought into the bloodline of the Lord Jesus Christ, radically, dramatically changed.
6. CONCLUSION
   1. Jesus is in the transformation business. He’s the only One who could take a filthy harlot and make her whiter than snow.
      1. Some may feel they haven’t been as bad as that and they don’t need as much forgiveness, but their sin is even worse: self-righteous pride.
         1. Matthew 21:31
      2. Even our righteousness is as filthy rags in the sight of our God.
         1. Isaiah 6:46
   2. There’s no one so bad he or she cannot be saved, and no one so good he or she need not be saved.
   3. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   4. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16