

## Joshua 2

### Outline for Congregation

November 14, 2010

#### God's Kindness

- Throughout the Bible God shows patience and kindness to many people
- Many of us struggle with this because we have a difficult time understanding God's justice and the seriousness of our sin

#### God's Kindness To Rahab

- Rahab is not presented as morally upright (v1, vv4-6)– but she hears of the power of God, believes, and asks for mercy (vv9-13)
- Those who had kept Passover now look for a sign in Jericho of a household where judgment will also pass over (vv18-21)
- Rahab is not just spared, she is brought into God's community (Joshua 6:25 “and she has lived in Israel to this day”)

#### God's Kindness To Israel Through Rahab

- The generation that witnessed the mighty acts of God still lacked faith when they were faced with the challenge of entering the promised land (Numbers 13-14)
- The spies find hospitality and protection (vv1-7, 15-16) and return with an encouraging report (vv22-24)

#### God's Kindness To Us Through Rahab

- Story of Ruth receiving kindness from Boaz (kindness shown to another outsider)
- Rahab in the genealogy of Jesus (Matthew 1:5)
- Jesus suffers death to bring forgiveness – those who hope in him have the promise of life in an everlasting kingdom

#### Questions for reflection

1. Rahab has heard of what God has done and says to the spies “for the LORD your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.” (v11) What have you heard about the God of the Bible? What has God done, that has been recorded in the Bible, that portrays Him as the God of the heavens and the earth?
2. Rahab is not presented as someone who was saved because she deserved it (she didn't live a morally upright life by Israel's standards), but because she believed what she heard about God, welcomed His people, and asked for mercy. How should Christians

understand Jesus' invitation that sinners should turn and come to him? How do we come even when we are aware of our own sinfulness?

3. God not only spared Rahab, but she became such part of His people that she would become part of the genealogy of Jesus, the savior of God's people. What does this say about how God changes the lives of sinners and uses them for His good purposes? How should you understand your own life in the context of the Bible telling us that God makes use of each of us to accomplish His good purposes?
4. Hebrews 11:31 "By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies." James 2:25 "And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?" Rahab becomes an example of someone who believed, and whose belief was demonstrated by her actions. Reflect on whether or not you have a firm belief that Jesus has saved you from your sins, and if you do, if how you live reflects that. How can the story of Rahab help direct you as you move forward in seeking God?