



Women of the Bible

Rahab

Joshua 2; Hebrews 11:31; Matthew 1:5

If you were driving to the grocery store, approaching an intersection, and about a hundred feet away, the light turns yellow. What decision would you likely make in that split second? Hit the accelerator and roar through the intersection (possibly on yellow, probably on red), or hit the brake and take no chances? And what would determine whichever decision you made? Just a rule follower? Afraid of getting a ticket?

Your decision is probably based on several factors—your schedule and if you're running late, if it's your day off and you have plenty of time, how you feel about obeying the law, living on the edge, always up for a challenge, don't mind paying a ticket if you get fined? The options are almost endless.

Rahab had quick decisions to make. We all have to make quick decisions all the time. (Quick decisions started in the Garden of Eden. Hmm)

What was happening before Joshua 2? It helps to understand Rahab's quick decisions. The children of Israel have just wandered 40 years in the wilderness. An entire generation had died, including Moses, leaving Joshua as the new commander-in-chief. The first city to conquer in claiming the Promised Land was Jericho, the City of Palms (palms, did you know?). Jericho had walls 15-20 feet high (double walls with room-wide gaps between the walls). That's where Rahab lived, and she had heard about the Israelites.

ABOUT HER DECISIONS:

Rahab had to act quickly and the things that played into her decision are the same that play into ours—our personality (first-borns and babies of the family definitely react differently), our character, our fears. Rahab thinks:

- Do I let these two strange men (that aren't from around here) into my house? *Come on in.*
- Is that the king's men knocking at my door? *They must know about my visitors!*
- Where can I hide these Israelites? *Quick, to the roof!*
- The king's men want to know where they are?! *Oh, no! Oh, my! (a lie, that will work!)*

Note: God doesn't condone lying, but if it comes to fearing God or man, choose carefully.

He looks out for those who fear him. Remember those Egyptian midwives?

"The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them" (Psalm 34:7).

- How am I going to sneak you out of my house? *(Oh, yes, I have a scarlet thread!)*

So many split-second decisions!

INSIGHT INTO HER PERSONALITY:

- She was organized.
“hid them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order upon the roof” (2:6)
- She wasn't afraid to talk (to strangers or the king's men).
- She acted quickly and efficiently.
- She obviously was well liked and friendly.
- She suggested what the king's men should do (and they did it).
- She easily stated her expectations of the spies. (2:12)
“swear unto me by the Lord, since I have showed you kindness”
- She was willing to sacrifice for her family.
- She did what she had to do to protect her family.
- She accepted the God of the Israelites. *What a difference grace makes!*

ABOUT HER DESCENDANTS: See Joshua 6:22-23; Ruth 4:21; Matthew 1:5

Mother to Boaz (who beget Obed, who beget Jesse, who beget David, who beget Solomon)

Great grandmother to David

Great-great grandmother to Solomon

LESSONS LEARNED FROM RAHAB: (TAKEN FROM *BAD GIRLS OF THE BIBLE*, LIZ CURTIS HIGGS)

- Our past does not determine our future. Heb. 11:31; James 2:24-26
*Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.
Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers,
and had sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without
works is dead also.*
- Red is a very becoming color when it signifies faith in Christ. I Peter 1:19
But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:
- Obedience often requires public confession. Matthew 10:32, 33; Psalm 107:2
Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;
- Faith that is demonstrated is **remembered**. James 2:26
For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

Rahab is believed to be one of the four most beautiful women of the ancient world

(Sarai, Abigail, Esther, Rahab). Yet she wasn't just trying to save her own pretty neck.

No wonder the Israelite spy Salmon was attracted to her! He himself, according to history, was a prince of the house of Judah. Remember the tribe of Judah? It's the tribe from which Jesus would come. That's why she is listed in the lineage of Christ in Matthew 1.

It has been said that she was “the heroic prostitute with a heart of gold.”

She was hospitable, generous, unselfish, friendly, brave, patient.

Even before she was married into the Jewish community, she accepted their God. Her family had apparently not given God a thought. She was brave and smart and committed. It's obvious by the son she raised (Boaz). Rahab is a perfect example of Personality Meets Grace.