

---

# History Makers

## Part 4 – Rahab

---

God asks us to lay down our lives to serve His agenda. We die to self so we might live for Christ. That is what it means to be a disciple, to follow Jesus. But I think many of us put some big barriers in the way to believing that we could be used by God to do something extraordinary.

What needs to change for you to be a potential History Maker?

### **An Unlikely History Maker**

We first meet Rahab in the book of Joshua, then she is mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew's gospel, (she is in fact the great, great grandmother of King David), then James refers to her as he thinks about her faith in action and finally, she is listed in the "faith hall of fame" in the New Testament book of Hebrews. (Joshua 2; Matthew 1:5; James 2:25; Hebrews 11:31)

Rahab is a most unlikely 'History Maker' who in her day and culture has many strikes against her.

1. She was a Canaanite and not a Jew.
2. She was a woman.
3. She was a prostitute.
4. She was dishonest.

### **The Power of Changed Life**

Rahab's story is important for us because it gives us great insight into the nature of God and also speaks to the changes that He can bring in our lives.

- + God changed Rahab's profession from prostitute to cloth maker (Joshua 2:6; 17-18)
- + God changed how Rahab saw who He was (Joshua 2:8; 11)

The change that had overtaken Rahab meant that she was about to impact the direction of her own life, the lives of her family and a whole nation, as the Israelites were to enter the promised land now with renewed hope and will. She becomes a History Maker!

God is calling us to enter the year with a renewed sense of hope and purpose towards His will for 2021. God might just be choosing you to be the one who He would use to bring that renewed sense of hope and determination to others.

For all of us this story of Rahab is powerful good news!

Many times, we are tempted to give up on ourselves or others around us. Our lives have taken dangerous turns and we feel separated from God. We have painted ourselves into such seeming horrible corners that we assume there is no hope and yet God has promised us that through Jesus we can change (1 Corinthians 6:11; 2 Corinthians 5:17).

The wonderful, grace-filled, redemptive news is that God loves us in spite of ourselves. We don't live godly lives to win or find God's approval. God already loves us. God will accept us no matter what we have done, but then He wants us to change. And change is possible through Jesus!

God doesn't look at us the way the world does or even the way we see ourselves. God looks at us and sees what He can make of us. Everyone looked at Rahab and saw a woman who should be ostracised from the community and shunned. God saw a woman who could be restored and could impact a nation.

That process of yielding to God and allowing Him to bring about change as we repent, as we turn towards God and receive the forgiveness Jesus offers that then allows His Holy Spirit to do a work of transformation, places us in a position of hope. Hope not only for our own life circumstances to change but also that He might just use us to bring hope to others. We too can become God's History Makers.

In 2021, God wants to bring about change in your life for His glory! Here are a few things I think help us summarise what Rahab the History Maker teaches us.

- + **God's Plan Includes Everyone.** The greatest lesson that jumps off the pages of Joshua 2 is that God is no respecter of persons.
- + **God's Plan Includes Change.** When God effects change it translates into how we live our lives. What is the result of this change? We take God at His word and act on that faith.
- + **We Take A Stand.** Rahab's faith produced self-denial. She refused to go along with the rest of the world.

So, as we move through another year of uncertainty in so many ways, I want you to be reassured of this one thing. God has a plan for you, a purpose for your life to bring Him glory. You too can be a History Maker!

Don't allow the sin, hopelessness and despondency settle any longer. Throw it off, walk in your identity as a son or daughter of the Most High, deny yourself and put Jesus first and by faith step into what God has for you this year.

## Discussion Questions

1. Discuss how the circumstances of life can or have brought on a sense of hopelessness or despondency in your faith.
2. Read some of the passages that reference Rahab (Joshua 2; Matthew 1:5; James 2:25; Hebrews 11:31). Discuss some of the complexities around her character and choices in life. In what ways do we limit our availability to being used powerfully by God?
3. Rahab underwent some significant changes. What changes do you need to allow God to do in you to bring you to a place where He may use you for His glory?
4. We sometimes paint ourselves into seeming horrible corners where we assume there is no hope for us and yet God has promised us that through Jesus we can change (1 Corinthians 6:11; 2 Corinthians 5:17). Read the verses and discuss what it means to allow God's truth of redemption to bring us to a better place of faith.
5. In what areas of life is God challenging you to take a stand where the change in you would be noticeably different to the world around you?