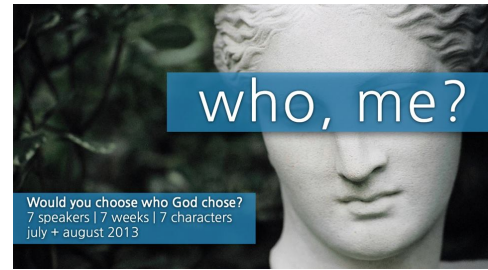


Who, Me?

Rahab

Leanne McAlister



The Setting:

- Israel had lost their way and had been wandering the desert for 40 years after being freed from Egypt.
- Finally, the people were moving forward to possess the land that God was giving to them.
- Jericho was one of the cities that needed to be conquered by the Israelites in order for them to possess the Promised Land
- To prepare for the invasion, 2 spies were sent to gather intelligence in Jericho and the surrounding area.
- This is where Rahab enters Israel's story– she lives and works in the city and has a home right in the city wall.

Rahab's Story:

- Prostitution was common in Palestine, as it is today.
- There was a separation between prostitutes and acceptable society.
- Rahab was a woman somewhat despised by her community.
- Why would the spies go to her house? (Josh. 2:1)
 - People would have been coming and going constantly– no questions would be asked of the spies.

Rahab's Choice:

- Josh. 2:2–3
- The city is on high alert, and somehow the King of Jericho knows that Rahab knows something; someone goes to her house and tells her to bring them out.
- In that moment, Rahab faces a critical choice. She could either:
 - Expose the men and become the town heroine, or
 - Lie and hide the men, putting herself in great danger.
- She chooses to lie (Josh. 2:7) and her ploy works.

Rahab's Faith:

- Josh. 2:8–11
- Rahab was perfectly positioned to receive reports and rumors of the Israelites– and at some point, she had begun to believe in the God that was leading them.
- She receives revelation, an act of grace on God's behalf. He had prepared her for this moment, and stirred up an openness to the possibility of this God being real.

- God had already been working in her, and though people around her were terrified, the terror hadn't shut her down.
- Josh. 2:12–13: She asks for the sparing of her family.

The Red Rope:

- Josh. 2:14–20.
- She is told to leave the red rope hanging out her window as a sign.
- The scarlet rope is seen as a symbol of the blood of Jesus.
- Just as Joshua (the leader) would be the Saviour of Rahab, so would Jesus be the Saviour for us, if we trust Him.
- Josh. 2:21: She accepts their terms, and in an act of faith, leaves the rope hanging from the window.
- Josh. 2:22–25: The Israelites remembered her, and Rahab and her family were saved.

What can we learn?

- People are not always who we think they are.
 - If we are honest with ourselves, we judge and write people off all the time, but hand-in-hand with our judgment is self-righteousness.
 - We are just as desperate for the salvation that the blood of Jesus brings to our lives.
 - Rahab's story shows us the length that God will go to in order to rescue someone and restore their dignity.
- Faith in God absolutely transforms lives.
 - Rahab was so remarkable in her faith, she is mentioned in Hebrews 11:31 and James 2:25.
 - She even went on to become an ancestor of Jesus Himself.
 - God loves faith– take a step towards Him and He will meet you there.

Discussion:

- Have you seen a major transformation (like Rahab's) in your own life or someone else's? Share stories.
- Which part of Rahab's story could you relate most to?
- Are there areas in your life in which you could take a bigger step forward in faith? Which ones?
- How could this affect our relationships with our friends and neighbors?