

Open to Heb 11:31

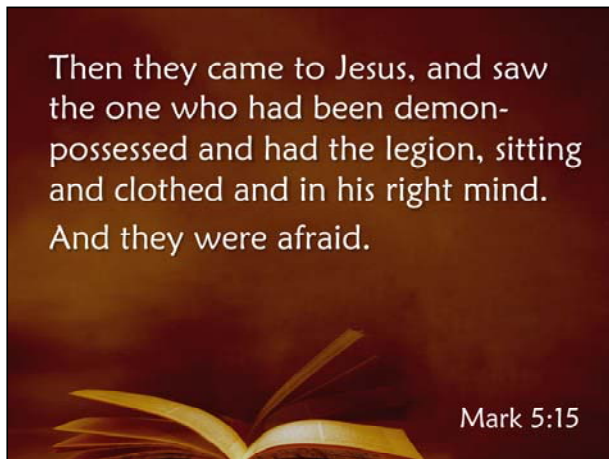
Sometimes...grace surprises us

- Maybe it shouldn't...but it does

To see someone's life changed – radically, wonderfully

- I think of the Demon Possessed man Jesus met

1



Amazing to Imagine

- Radical change....good change, shocking
- Scared those who saw it
- The “before” and “after” pictures shocking

2

Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord...

Acts 9:1

I think of Paul – persecutor...breathing out threats

- To a supporter, spreader of the Gospel

3

Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God.

Then all who heard were amazed, and said, "Is this not he who destroyed those who called on this name in Jerusalem...."

Acts 9:20-21

I think of Paul – persecutor...breathing out threats

- To a supporter, spreader of the Gospel

4

But they were hearing only, “He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith which he once tried to destroy.” And they glorified God in me.

Galatians 1:23-24

I think of Paul – persecutor...breathing out threats

- To a supporter, spreader of the Gospel

5



Surely was so in familiar story of John Newton

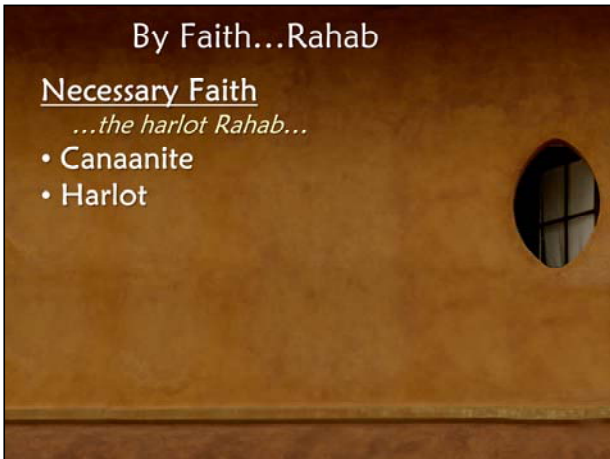
- Writer of Amazing Grace
- Terrible sinner, slave trader
- Amazing Grace

6



Today...we look at the example of one who would fall into this category of being surprising grace

- Rahab....the harlot
- Amazing to see what God did...surprising
- A surprise that brings hope....



Read verse.

As we look at her faith – see it was necessary

- Required....vital

Why? Perhaps many things could list of what was against her, but there were two key things

- One – she is a Canaanite
- Two – she is a harlot

By Faith...Rahab

Necessary Faith

...the harlot Rahab...

- Canaanite - doomed
- Harlot



What is wrong with being a Canaanite?

- They were a people who were doomed, literally

9

Now the city shall be doomed by the Lord to destruction, it and all who are in it.

Joshua 6:17

In days....from where our passage points to in Rahab's life, within days – all Jericho would be destroyed

Note the words – doomed to destruction

- picture of God's judgment in there

10



Rahab, just by virtue of being a Canaanite, is doomed

But her condition is worse....



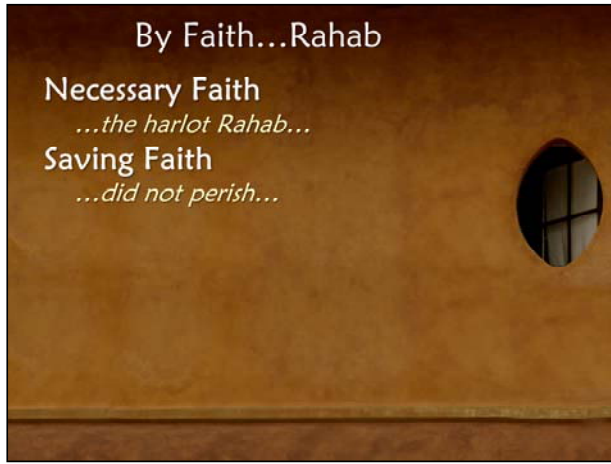
Rahab is a harlot.

- Clearly emphasized in our text – big issue
- Some have tried to lighten over the years
 - Josephus in his writings tries to make her just an innkeeper.
 - Clearly – words in OT, and more in NT – show she was a prostitute... a harlot
 - No easy way around that.

Picture in Rahab that is true of us...

- Theologically – a picture of our sinful condition
- Sinner by Nature – born in sin, born bad
- Sinner by Choice – chosen poorly, sinfully
- Because of these two issues – we are doomed

- Speak to those unsaved...is where you are
- Speak to those saved – see where came from



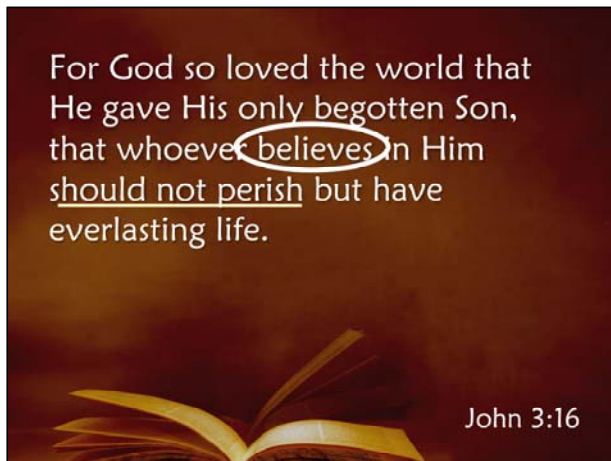
Without faith...Rahab hopeless, it was necessary

Yet more- or how that worked out –

She had a saving faith

- did not perish...

13



My mind flips rapidly to one of most familiar verses
John 3:16

Note the words – should not perish

- Reflective of our words about Rahab, she did not perish

How?

- Jn 3:16 – believes
- Same thing we are seeing in Hebrews
 - Faith, belief – synonymous– same thing
 - One more of a verb, other a noun,
 - yet both speaking of this place of faith
 - Salvation, is by faith


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By Faith...Rahab

Necessary Faith
...the harlot Rahab...

Saving Faith
...did not perish...

- By faith...she believed
- Joshua 2:1, 8-11
 - “I know that...” 3 things
 - “Heard”... 2 things
 - “for the Lord your God...He is God...”
- Lit-Heb 11:31-“perish with”- others did... every man, women, child (6:20-21)



By faith...Rahab believed, saved.

How did it happen – open to Joshua 2

Note the spies – not great ones, figured out ☺

Skip ahead to v.8 (will come back)

Notice – know – reports have been coming

- Key on the word “that” – 3 things

Note – heard – 2 things

- Deliverance 40 years earlier
- Battles recent...
- She heard what was happening


What did this do in her? Tells us

- She came to believe that God, alone, is God
- wow. Faith

It is this faith that saves her from perishing

- Note in Heb 11:31 – Greek word for perish, is literally perish with...with those who did, would perish
- In Jericho – all would...accept her

For God so loved the world that
 He gave His only begotten Son,
 that whoever believes in Him
 should not perish but have
 everlasting life.



John 3:16

For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

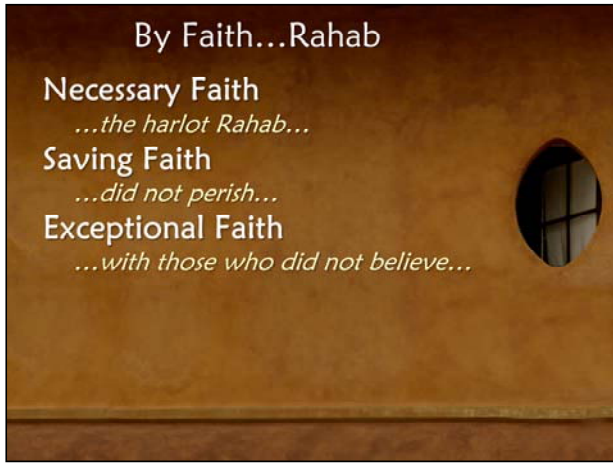
John 3:17

17

He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 3:18

18



Her faith was necessary, saving...yet more

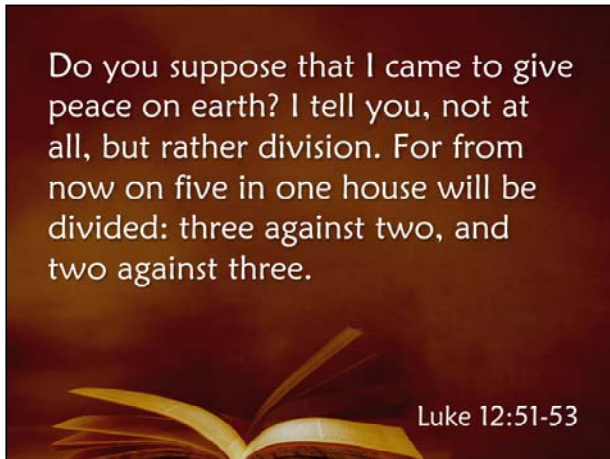
It was exceptional

- stood out, stood alone, stood in contrast

Note – with those who did not believe

- Others in Jericho, all, heard same news she did
- In her, it produced belief
- Not in them.....she had this, alone

Key of understanding, real faith often isolates...



Real faith – divides families, friends

Father will be divided against son
and son against father, mother
against daughter and daughter
against mother, mother-in-law
against her daughter-in-law and
daughter-in-law against her
mother-in-law.”

Luke 12:51-53

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By Faith...Rahab

Necessary Faith

...the harlot Rahab...

Saving Faith

...did not perish...

Exceptional Faith

...with those who did not believe...

Effective Faith

...when she had received the spies with peace

- What about her lie?

Exceptional faith

- Not a minor point. True her family saved with her, but they would have had to believe as well
- It is this issue, that keeps many from surrendering to Christ, from believing in Him
- That faith – damns others....condemns others
 - True in Muslim world today
 - True in Cults
 - True in Catholic families
 - True in Jewish families
 - True to those who first read this letter

Apply to those hearing

Effective faith

- Note words – when she received spies
- Problem...what about her lie. Josh 2:2-7
- Many wrestle over – right or wrong?
 - God never lies – calls high
 - Yet, one of wonderful things – God avoids
 - God neither commends nor condemns lie
 - I am going to follow His example ☺
- In fact, notice – point of God's commendation
 - Not rescuing spies, but receiving them

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By Faith...Rahab

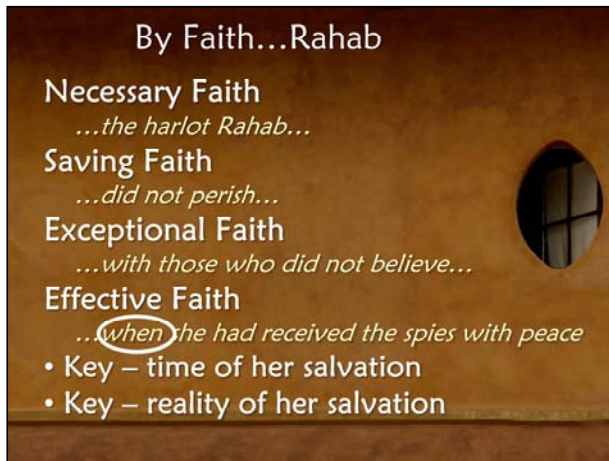
Necessary Faith
...the harlot Rahab...

Saving Faith
...did not perish...

Exceptional Faith
...with those who did not believe...

Effective Faith
...when she had received the spies with peace

- Key – time of her salvation
- Key – reality of her salvation



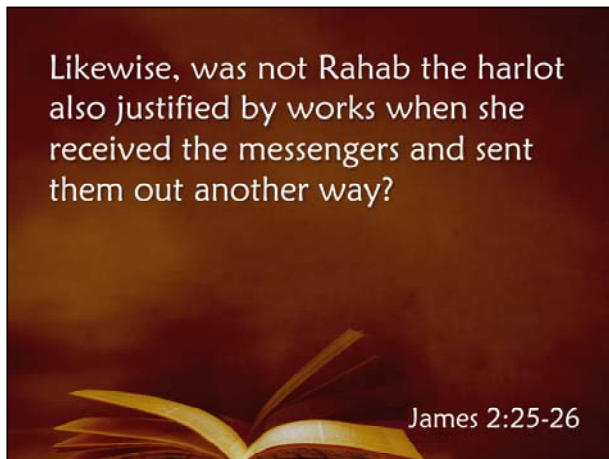
Effective faith....

- One – I think we see the time of her salvation
 - Notice the word “when”
 - Her faith became real...then
 - Years of knowledge...wondering
 - When she saw spies...time of decision
 - Choice to be made...she did
 - She decidedly put her faith in God
 - Salvation is a decision, a radical change
 - Often road to it...but instant
- Two – this shows the reality of her salvation
 - Her deed proves her faith is real
 - It is exactly this point James brings out
 - Next slide

23

Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way?

James 2:25-26



Rahab's faith – justified by her works

- works prove her faith

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Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

James 2:25-26

If someone says they have faith – does nothing

- Then it is not real faith

Not saved by good works...but for them

25

You believe that there is one God.
You do well.

James 2:19-20

In the verses preceding this, James explains it this way.

If you believe in God, if you believe is only one God

- Such factual belief is good.....

26

You believe that there is one God.
You do well. Even the demons
believe—and tremble!

James 2:19-20

Factual belief is not enough

- Demons have the equivalent of this faith
- Know the truth....but unsunderred to it
- Sadly....many have this type of faith – unsaving
- Think because they know truth...enough

27

You believe that there is one God.
You do well. Even the demons
believe—and tremble! But do you
want to know, O foolish man, that
faith without works is dead?

James 2:19-20

28

By Faith...Rahab


Necessary Faith
...the harlot Rahab...

Saving Faith
...did not perish...

Exceptional Faith
...with those who did not believe...

Effective Faith
...when she had received the spies with peace

- Key – time of her salvation
- Key – reality of her salvation
- See the scarlet cord of her salvation



See the scarlet cord of her salvation

Notice Josh 2:17-21

- Fascinating pictures here...many have seen much in
- Yet, one cannot help but notice similarity to 40 years previously – the “Passover” of the Jews
 - Saved in their homes, blood on door, saved
 - Here – scarlet, blood colored rope, only on those who stay in home...neat picture

Fast forward – see it effective

Joshua 6:15-17, 22-25

- Fun to imagine...only portion of wall standing?
- Simply – hers was an effective faith


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Guys, God is holding before us a marvelous example of faith – necessary, saving, exceptional, effective

For some – you need this, you are yet in the world, doomed to destruction – call you to faith

Yet, some are saved – want you to see how surprising this is.

- Sense of seeing her faith, and knowing saved
- But wonder, will she be a 2nd class citizen
 - She was a Canaanite, was a harlot

But how amazing is God's grace...surprising

Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab
Boaz begot Obed by Ruth,
Obed begot Jesse, and
Jesse begot David the king.
...of whom was born Jesus who is
called Christ.

Matthew 1:5-6,16

Rahab...is in Jesus line....great, great....Grandmother

Wow.....

Apply

- Do you know how incredible God's grace is
- for some – know you are saved...but feel 2nd class
- convinced you will be in poor district of heaven
- But O...consider the marvels of grace

31

Behold what manner of love the
Father has bestowed on us, that we
should be called children of God!

1John 3:1

You...Christian, are a part of God's family
No less than Rahab...

Wow

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Sometimes Grace really is surprising

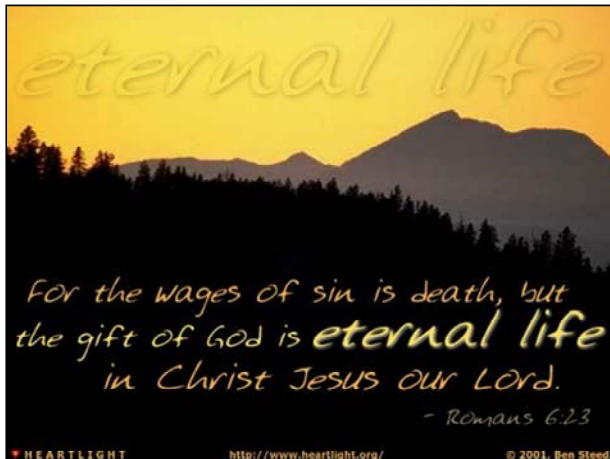
It has been said there are going to be 3 surprises in heaven

1. Those who are not there...
 - People we expected...faith was fake
 - Good people...but unsaved
 - Believed truth...but not effective

 2. Those who are there....
 - Some who we sincerely doubted were saved
 - Will be those like Samson, Lot – really saved, but lived poorly

 3. That we are there...in such marvelous grace
 - That will be the most amazing, surprising, to see where we stand with God, have in Him.
- Today...marvel with me at God's grace
- God's grace in Rahab
 - God's grace in you...

33



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