

Home Group Notes 5

Rahab – impressive foreign believer

Introduction

The name Rahab in Hebrew is often used of a monster. This foreign former-prostitute might be seen as a monstrous addition to Jesus' family tree.

1. Has anyone foreign married into your family? What sort of reaction was there from members? Have you any xenophobic tendencies? Given their calling as the chosen family who would become God's nation, imagine the reaction from some of the Old Testament people descended from Abraham.
2. **Read Joshua 2:1** If you were male and spying on a foreign city, why might a prostitute's house be a good place to go?
3. **Read Joshua 2:2-3** What would you do?
 give the foreigners to your king's secret police
 hide the guests & deceive your fellow citizens
Is there any other option?
4. **Read Joshua 2:8-13**
What is Rahab's decision influenced by?
 her belief in the Lord of heaven and earth
 an instinct to look after herself and her family
 her knowledge of the Israelite victories
 the state of mind of her fellow citizens

5. **Read Hebrews 11:31** Why is Rahab held up as a beacon of faith? What is faith? Is faith better vague and general or specific and focussed? What did Rahab have faith in?
6. **Read James 2:24f** Can you see the point being made is that people's faith is shown by their actions. There needs to be faith and also the fruit of faith (i.e. actions based on that faith). Do you agree?
Do you think Rahab is a good example to use?
7. In Jesus' family tree in Matthew 1, the gospel writer seems to go out of his way to include Rahab. Why might this be?
 to prepare them for the gospel message that all foreigners are to be offered God's salvation
 to prepare them for the gospel message that the most disreputable sinners can be saved
 to fulfil a certain quota of women
 he likes being provocative for the sake of it
8. Who else in the list shows that God's purpose is the inclusion of foreigners in his people?
9. When it comes to the inclusion of foreigners, how different is the New Testament and the Old Testament?
10. Are you good at sharing the gospel with foreigners?

Prayer Points

*Thank the Lord for the gospel in Old and New Testaments
Confess any xenophobic sinfulness – yours and others in our society (eg. Some involved in the Wythenshawe by-election)
Pray for our PCC discussing future leadership of church music
Pray for us to show a true and courageous faith by our deeds*