



# REDEEMING FAITH

Joshua 2:1-24 | Matthew 1:5

Advent is a season of expectancy and preparation. It's a preparing of our hearts for the coming of our Lord Jesus. The theme of the Second Sunday of Advent is *Peace and Preparation*. Also known as the Bethlehem Candle, it signifies preparing for the arrival of Jesus.

## ADVENT REFLECTION

Whether it's putting up decorations, attending Christmas parties, buying and wrapping presents, shopping for, cooking, and serving Christmas dinner, or any of the other thousand to-do's at Christmas time, the season requires a lot of preparation. As *Joy to The World* reminds us, "let earth receive her King. Let every heart prepare Him room. And heaven and nature sing," the most significant preparation of all at Christmas is that of preparing our hearts for our coming King. Jesus broke into human history to rescue fallen humanity. And we prepare to celebrate that astounding fact this Christmas.

1. What is the most stressful part of the Christmas season?
2. What is one of your favourite parts about the Christmas season?
3. What would it look like for you to prepare room in your heart for Jesus this Christmas?

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## SERMON SUMMARY

The genealogy of Jesus includes a gospel treasure. That treasure is *5 Women*. Even though it is a patrilineal genealogy (a record of fathers and sons), most of them being racial and cultural outsiders, there they are. The story of Rahab is the second woman mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus (Matthew 1:5). Her story is one of faith in the God who brings outsiders in to the redemption found in Jesus Christ.



What big takeaway - Truth from the Word - stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?

## **I: WE ENTER THE PROMISED LAND THROUGH FAITH ALONE**

1. Compared to others, Rahab had only heard about some of the things the Israelites personally saw or experienced wandering in the wilderness. Rahab (having only heard) took God at His Word by faith. Why do some people struggle with a lack of faith in God?
2. Read Hebrews 11:1; James 2:19; Acts 16:31; Matthew 21:32 and Mark 1:15. Discuss and articulate together a clear definition of faith in God as related to the Gospel message that you can share when asked by others.

## **II: FAITH THAT SAVES IS NEVER ALONE**

1. Rahab, a Canaanite prostitute, risked everything to get in on the promises of God. Her faith was not only professed, it led to action. The Biblical definition of faith is never about Salvation alone, it is equally applied to the rest of the Christian life. We are to believe and obey. Faith applied to the Christian life is costly. Have you found faith applied to be costly in your daily life? How?

## **III: JESUS TAKES OUTSIDERS AND BRINGS THEM IN**

1. Jesus came to give hope and redemption to those who are the least, the last, and the lost, even people like Rehab. How have you experienced that?
2. In the big redemptive story of God - Rahab and her family are a foretaste of the church to come, a foretaste of the promises of God about the nations. When you see or rub shoulders with the least, the last, and the lost do you see them in God's image? Do you want them to hear the Gospel message? What is your initial reaction to those who may be seen as "outsiders"?

## **IV: OUTSIDE OF FAITH IN JESUS, WE STAND IN THE PATH OF GOD'S JUDGEMENT | V: JESUS IS THE CRIMSON CORD THAT GOD HOLDS OUT TO US.**

1. Rahab the prostitute was qualified by her sin; Bob the glutton; Barb the gossip; Bill the murderer; Brian the coveter - when we confess and repent of our sin we can experience healing - we all stand in the path of God's judgement. Who in your life are you praying for that needs to hear of God and turn to Him in repentance and faith through Jesus? Take time to pray for each one.



## CONCLUSION

The story of Rahab is about a person hearing of God, turning to Him in repentance and faith, a faith that produces action, good works. Rahab is an example of not only stated believe in God but trust in and genuine relationship with God. Jesus is the crimson cord that God holds out to us, so that we would grab hold of it by faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ. Take some time together to *examine* your hearts, repent of sin, share past hurts, and *examine* the wonder of the gospel afresh.

## SHARE & PRAY

- Pray in response to the things you discussed in this study.
- Spend time thanking God for the confidence we can have through His righteous sovereignty that He holds on our lives.
- Conclude by spending some time praying for one another, the growth in grace you want to experience, and the needs among you.

