

Sermon Discussion Questions | August 7, 2016

Hebrews 11:31, Joshua 2:1-24 | “Rahab: Faith to Believe and Risk”

1. Name one or more “unknowns” in your life that bring you a measure of anxiety?
What do all “unknowns” have in common, and why are they so common?
2. What is the difference between believing that we are “dependent” servants rather than “independent” masters? What is the difference between “responsible influence” and “idolatrous control”? Why is the doctrine of the self-sufficiency of God so important?
3. Name those things, from the text, that Rahab did know:
 - a) vs. 9a – ‘I know that the Lord has given you _____’
 - b) vs. 9b – ‘and that the _____ of you has fallen upon
 - c) vs. 9c – ‘and that all the inhabitants of the land _____ away before
 - d) vs. 10 – the miraculous deliverance from Egypt & victory over the
 - e) vs. 11 – ‘for the Lord your God, He is God in the _____ and on the _____’ = God is sovereign
 - NOTE: The knowledge cited above was public. We can only speculate about what knowledge/discernment Rahab may have had from the Holy Spirit directly.
4. Name those things that Rahab did not know in advance of her decision to hide the spies.
 - a) How will God conquer Jericho?
 - b) Can God’s spies/people be trusted (can God Himself be trusted)?
 - c) Can I get past my past? (the shame)
 - d) What will my future hold? (can I trust the God who holds my future?)
5. How did God answer each of these four unknowns?
 - a) God will conquer Jericho miraculously (see *Joshua 6:1-21*).
 - b) God and His servants fulfill their promises (*Joshua 6:22-25*).
 - c) By God’s grace, your past is past (*Isaiah 43:25; Heb. 8:12*).
 - d) God has a future plan for you (*Ruth 4:21; I Chron. 2:11; Matt. 1:5*).
6. How does the gospel (the bloody cross, the empty tomb, and the occupied throne) answer the unknowns in your/our life?
 - a) God will be victorious over all evil (already/not yet, *Col. 2:13-15; Rev. 21-22*).
 - b) God always fulfills His promises (*II Cor. 1:20*).
 - c) In Jesus, your past is past (*I Cor. 15:9-10; II Cor. 5:17; Col. 3:3*).
 - d) God has a future plan for you / us (*Psalms 23, John 10*).

7. How does believing these gospel truths allow you/us to approach an unknown future with unwavering courage? What faithless anxiety is God calling me to repent of, and what does that repentance look like, and what will it produce?
- NOTE: Three other great Old Testament women of faith that you are encouraged to study are Deborah (*Judges 4-5*), *Esther*, and *Ruth*.