

The Forgotten Jesus Podcast

S3E8

Title – The Significance Of Rahab’s Scarlet Cord

Description – Last week we took a look at four unique women in the genealogy of Matthew 1. Today we want to take a closer look at one of those women, Rahab, and the significance of her story.

Welcome back to the Podcast. Last week we covered several women who were in the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1.

Today we want to take a deeper look at Rahab.

Turn to Joshua 2

⁸ Before the men fell asleep, she went up on the roof ⁹ and said to them, “I know that the LORD has given you this land and that the terror of you has fallen on us, and everyone who lives in the land is panicking because of you. ¹⁰ For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two Amorite kings you completely destroyed across the Jordan. ¹¹ When we heard this, we lost heart, and everyone’s courage failed because of you, for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on earth below. ¹² Now please swear to me by the LORD that you will also show kindness to my father’s family, because I showed kindness to you. Give me a sure sign ¹³ that you will spare the lives of my father, mother, brothers, sisters, and all who belong to them, and save us from death.”

So this is a gentile woman, a Canaanite, who’s people worshiped the false god Ba’al, who knows that the LORD is the one true God.

Jump down to vs. 17

¹⁷ The men said to her, “We will be free from this oath you made us swear, ¹⁸ unless, when we enter the land, you tie this scarlet cord to the window through which you let us down. Bring your father, mother, brothers, and all your father’s family into your house.

The scarlet cord, crimson in color, came from a worm that they would crush to bring out the blood and the dye to use the color to dye clothing or fabrics.

We know that Rahab as soon as the spies left put the scarlet cord in her window. What is this? This is her demonstrating faith.

Also, the scarlet cord hanging in the window is a call back to Exodus and the Passover. With blood on the threshold and the doorposts from the sacrificial lamb.

There's an OT rabbinic commentary on Rahab that says she was a prostitute for over 40 years, starting when she was 10 years old. Meaning, she was put into this life by her family. She was abused, mistreated, sexually assaulted, and molested for decades. This was not her choice, her own doing. She was thrown into this life by her family.

She's been put into this traumatic life by her family, her abusive parents. Over 7 times in the NT she's said to be a prostitute, which signifies a call girl, a hooker, etc.

Yet even this woman, with her traumatic sexual past, will become the great grandmother to King David.

Now look at Hebrews 11:31

³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute welcomed the spies in peace and didn't perish with those who disobeyed.

A prostitute is named in the same chapter as a man who built an ark, the same chapter as a man who fathered the nation of Israel, the same chapter as a man (her great grandson) who would be called "a man after God's own heart."

Look at James 2:25

²⁵ In the same way, wasn't Rahab the prostitute also justified by works in receiving the messengers and sending them out by a different route?

We can think of lots of reasons why Rahab could have been left OUT of the "Hall of Faith" in Hebrews 11. But there's only one reason she's listed there. It's her faith in God.

Now, look back to Matthew 1:5-6

⁵ Salmon fathered Boaz by Rahab, Boaz fathered Obed by Ruth, Obed fathered Jesse, ⁶ and Jesse fathered King David.

There are several verses that link Blood and sacrifice to sin, crimson, and blood to sin.

Isaiah 1:18

"Come, let's settle this," says the LORD. "Though your sins are scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are crimson red, they will be like wool.

Revelation 7:13-14

¹³ Then one of the elders asked me, "Who are these people in white robes, and where did they come from?" ¹⁴ I said to him, "Sir, you know." Then he told me: These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Psalm 22:6

But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by people.

The idea here is that Jesus is being crushed on the cross, and His blood that is shed is not covering a cloth or a garment, but instead is covering the sin of the world.

The worm being crushed brings out blood that is used to dye clothing red, but now Jesus's blood that is shed doesn't stain a garment a scarlet / crimson color, but it brings cleansing. (Isaiah 1:18).

See you next week for the next episode (Possibly Jeconiah)