



Sunday, April 3, 2022

Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Hebrews 11:31

“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” That is how Hebrews chapter 11 begins. As we draw this series to a close, we ought to be reminded of those words and the power they possess. Each person that we have studied together has exhibited that kind of faith. Most often, it comes in the form of trusting specific promises that God has made. But sometimes, it comes in the form of acknowledging the truth that God is the supreme being in heaven and on earth and even if we didn’t have a specific promise from Him, is still worthy of our devotion.

In this text, we see the faith of Rahab. To the first readers, the details of the story of Rahab would have been very clear in their minds—the way the details of your favorite movie or book are clear in yours. So, even though there is but a brief statement made about her faith, there is much to be admired...and much to be gleaned. Rahab faced destruction with her people in the city of Jericho, but because she believed the report about the greatness of God, she acted in faith and her whole family was saved.

Context

Rahab’s story is first found in Joshua chapters 2 and 6. In chapter 2, Rahab recounts how she has heard the message about the mighty acts of judgment that the LORD has brought upon the people of Egypt and the enemies of Israel all throughout their wilderness journeys. Because she believed what was about to happen to her people in Jericho, she gave a peaceful welcome to the spies. She is a prime example of someone who knows that here she has “no lasting city.” (Heb. 13:14)

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Hebrews 11:31; Josh. 2:1-24 and 6:22-25

“Extraordinary Grace”

“Scripture frequently sums up a person’s life in a single sentence.”
– Charles Spurgeon

Her Situation

- Profession
- Danger

Her Confession

- Deeds
- Words

Her Conclusion

- Rescued
- Rewarded

Discuss

- 1) One common reason that people resist becoming Christians is that they believe their sinful past is too much for God to forgive. Why do you think someone could believe that? What would you say to that person in response?
- 2) It is also fairly common for people who have been Christians for a long time to cease being amazed by grace. How does Rahab's story help us in this regard?
- 3) Read James 2:14-26. How can a person discern if they have faith? And why do you think James includes Rahab in this section?
- 4) Rahab's faith depended in large part on the news of the LORD's great acts in destroying the enemies of Israel. The Christian gospel is even stronger: those who do not believe the message about Jesus will face eternal destruction. How should the news about God's wrath impact the way we do evangelism?
- 5) Hebrews 11 is aimed at encouraging people to persevere in their faith in the midst of suffering (Heb. 10:32-39). How has this study encouraged you to persevere in the faith?