

# Believing what God says

Faith is an internal power and motivator of the believer's conduct and is manifested in an active interest in the salvation of armed beings.

**Meditation Verse: "They said: Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your house". Acts 16:31**

Biblical Lecture: Joshua 2: 3-15

## Suggestions:

1. Begin this lesson with a testimony of the miraculous power of God.
2. Ask the following questions: What is faith? Do we all have faith? How do we increase faith? Can we combine our faith with that of others? What does the Bible mean when you say that if two agreed...?

## Daily Readings

Monday: Joshua 2: 1-15

Wednesday: Acts 27:15-25

Friday: Galatians 3:1-14

Tuesday: Joshua 2:16-24

Thursday: Acts 27:33-44

Saturday: Galatians 3:15-26

## Introduction

Rahab's story has two aspects. First, it is the story of a faith that produces miracles. Second, this story presents the wonderful grace of God. Jericho was the key to his conquest of the Promised Land.

### **A. Rahab hides the spies (Joshua 2: 3-5)**

The spies were received in the house of the harlot Rahab. According to Jewish tradition, this woman was also an innkeeper. The spies perhaps chose Rahab's house because it was projected onto the city wall and provided a means of escape. Rahab immediately recognized the men and knew they were Israelite spies. Undoubtedly God was already manifesting in her Heart. The spies had not accidentally entered her home. The woman received an order from the King of Jericho demanding that she hand over the men as spies. But Rahab hid them. At first glance, it may seem strange that a woman guilty of a sin that can exclude people from heaven (Revelation 21:27; 22:15) has the unmistakable honor of being part of one of Christ's ancestors.

### **B. Rahab believes in God (Joshua 2: 9-10)**

While they were on the roof, Rahab revealed to the spies the reason she had hidden them. She had known that God had given all the land to the Israelites. An environment reigned in the city similar to that which will reign in the last days of this century, when according to the Holy Scriptures, men will faint with fear. (Luke 21:26). That fear was the fulfillment of God's promise. It was evident that Israel did not have enough men or warlike teams to achieve such spectacular victories. Therefore, the Canaanites rightly judged that Israel's success was to be attributed to the power and purpose of Jehovah, the God of Israel. Jericho was especially frightened, judged that she would be the next to fall, and did not know what to do about it.

### **C. The recognized authority of God (Joshua 2:11)**

The news of the victories that God had bestowed on Israel filled the Canaanites with deep fear. No one had the courage to lead and organize the people. Rahab includes herself in this general feeling of panic. But when she saw the spies, hope was reborn in her heart. She

faced reality by understanding that the God of Israel is the true God. Here was a God who was very different from the idols of Canaan. He was the God, the true God, and both heaven and earth were his. So even though Rahab initially shared the Canaanites' fears, her fear gave rise to faith and hope. By virtue of this sentiment, she was willing to hide the spies by confessing that Jehovah, the God of Israel, is Lord in heaven and on earth. Unfortunately, others in Jericho had the same truth, but did not come to the same conclusion. Instead of turning to God, they locked themselves up, probably hoping that somehow things would turn out well. What a combination of fear and assumption!

#### **D. Seek mercy (Joshua 2: 12-14)**

Rahab then asks the spies to show her and her family the same kindness and mercy that she had shown them. She asks them to confirm this by taking an oath before Jehovah, giving her a sign that they would keep his word. It is not enough to believe that there is a holy God, a God of power, and that the day of judgment is at hand. The devil himself believes all this and trembles (James 21: 9). The assurance of salvation comes only when man has made a personal commitment to himself, which separates him from the world and places him on the Lord's side.

#### **E. A scarlet cord (Joshua 2: 17-24)**

The spies then gave Rahab a signal. She had to tie a scarlet cord in the same window through which the two spies had dropped. The red or scarlet color would remind the Israelites of how the people had been protected from the punishment of God that fell in Egypt. For us, it speaks of Christ, our Passover, which flows from Calvary for our redemption. Note also that the entire family of Rahab had to be informed and had to take the step of faith and stay under the protection of that scarlet thread if she wanted to be saved. Through this conduct they confessed in advance that victory was Jehovah's. The two spies followed

Rahab's advice and stayed in the mountainous region between Jericho and Jerusalem until their pursuers stopped searching.

#### **IV. Lesson Summary**

God does not choose us just because of our ability, but because of our availability. The faith was evident in Rahab's heart and she found the means of communication and understanding with the two spies. Total faith demands total consecration and commitment. Those who do not want to get involved should evaluate faith based on Rahab's steps of faith. These are: (1) Rahab welcomes the two men, (2) She defended them by hiding them, (3) I confess her faith before them, (4) Demanding a sign of certainty or fidelity, (5) She asked that it be done to her. a promise of protection.