

A HEALTHY FEAR GOES A LONG WAY

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What a challenging time we find ourselves in. Our faith is being challenged. There is a woman described in Hebrews 11 that demonstrates great faith. She is mentioned three different times in the Bible, in Joshua 2:1-21, Hebrews 11:31 and James 2:25.

For the author of Hebrews, a Jew, to mention a woman, a Gentile, is very unusual. To use a woman as an example of outstanding faith and to include her along with men of great faith points to her tremendous faith in God.

That woman is Rahab. She was an inn keeper and prostitute, not to mention she lied to the king's men. Nowhere in scripture are these actions condoned. However, her fear of and faith in God is demonstrated by risking her life, saving the two spies and asking for safety for her family when the Israelite nation began to take the Promised Land.

She had heard about the Red Sea crossing and the destruction of two great Amorite kings, Sihon and Og. "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." (Joshua 2:11) Rahab believed in God and His power. She feared God and didn't fear man.

You may ask, "How does this apply to me?" Well, I'm glad you asked. The obvious question is, "Do you fear God more than man?" We find great examples of faith and a healthy fear of God in Hebrews 11. Today we face deadly viruses, such as COVID-19, Flu, RSV and other ailments. Fear of these viruses has prompted numerous doctor visits. I wonder why people don't fear the silent spiritual killer, sin? "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

"But I will show you the One to fear: Fear Him who has authority to throw people into hell after death. Yes, I say to you, this is the One to fear!" (Luke 12:5) I guess some people just simply don't fear God and where they will spend eternity. This is the wake-up call folks. "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23) You know what happens to folks who do not repent of their sins?

Folks, we must put our faith and trust in Jesus Christ, just as Rahab believed in God to keep her family safe from the destruction that was about to occur. This is demonstrated by Rahab placing the scarlet cord at the opening of her house. This scarlet cord is symbolic of the Passover and its placement of blood on the door frame of the house in which the family was preserved from death. Today when one applies the blood of the Lamb to our life we will not face a spiritual death. "According to the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness." (Hebrews 9:22) "so also the Messiah, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him." (Hebrews 9:28)

Jesus was crucified, arose on the third day, and was seen by over 500 people at different times. In fact, when Thomas, who didn't believe Jesus had risen, changed his mind when he saw Jesus in-person and touch Him. After seeing and touching Jesus, he said, "My Lord and my God."

We see Jesus today in creation and its majesty. We also see Jesus when we read our Bible. Jesus is real and seated at the right hand of God. His return will happen. Here is why the blood of Jesus Christ

is so important. "There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people, and we must be saved by it." (Acts 4:12)

Just as Jesus told His disciples to "fear not," we should also "fear not." Here is why we should not fear. "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20b) If you need more reassurance from God's Word let's look at this passage: ¹⁴ "Because he has loved Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him securely on high, because he has known My name. ¹⁵ "He will call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. ¹⁶ "With a long life I will satisfy him and let him see My salvation." (Psalm 91:14-16)

Jesus said it this way. "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33) Also this verse, "Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." (Matthew 10:28)

Fear does not necessarily mean afraid of. It means for one to have a healthy respect, realizing what Jesus has done for you. If you were an electrician, you would have a healthy respect for the voltage and ampere or else you might get shocked, or lose your life.

In the Bible, "fear" has a dual meaning: a negative, paralyzing dread of evil or danger (like terror or anxiety) and a positive, reverential awe, wonder, and profound respect for God's holiness and power. I like the healthy fear of respect for our Savior. Serve Him not out of fear, rather serve Him because you choose to. "but take courage; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33b)

Satan puts fear in the heart of Christians, and by doing so he is in somewhat of control of your life. This fear can render you from serving Jesus. The next thing you know when asked to serve you come up with excuses that are based on the fear (lies from Satan.) God told Joshua this as he began to lead the Israelite nation. "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9) This is still true today. Have a blessed week, and Have No Fear.

No Fear:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2qAfSa748A&list=RDE2qAfSa748A&start_radio=1