



Part 8: The Unexpected X-Factor

Was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction?

~ James 2:25

Rahab is not only a Canaanite but also a woman and a prostitute. In some ways Rahab is yet another example of the Biblical theme of the vindication of the one least likely to succeed.

~ Philippa Carter
IVP Women's Bible Commentary

Israel's problem with foreigners has a decidedly sexual dimension. Foreign women are targeted as the problem, easily seducing Israelite men into worshipping other gods.

~ Danna Nolan Fewell
Women's Bible Commentary

The spies go, but surprisingly they enter the house of a prostitute...it provides an undercurrent of ambiguous sexual innuendo.

~ K. Lawson Younger Jr.

The story of Rahab is one of irony. Mighty men of God are ultimately found to be much less than expected, while a whore, whom we expect to be in the depths of sin, is the one who truly knows Yahweh and is obedient to him.

~ K. Lawson Younger, Jr.

And it is Rahab who saves the lives of the feeble Israelite spies, who willingly cavort with foreigners, indeed with a woman whom they would have eventually slaughtered in battle.

~ Danna Nolan Fewell
Women's Bible Commentary

The Bible says that faith comes by hearing. Rahab had heard and believed. What's more, her faith was not just verbal confession. It was combined with action, and risky action at that. Is was a faith she was ready to die for.

~ David Oginde
African Bible Commentary

Rahab the harlot, who had only heard of the wonders God had wrought, speaks with more assurance of the truth of the promise made to the fathers than all the elders of Israel had done who were eye-witnesses of those wonders, many of whom perished through unbelief of this promise. Blessed are those that have not seen, and yet have believed; so Rahab did. O woman, great is thy faith!

~ Matthew Henry