HEROES OF FAITH - RAHAB
"She Helped God's People"
Hebrews 11.30-31

INTRODUCTION ... One of the strangest battles in history - the
battle of Jericho ... the army of Israel marching silently
(except for trumpets) around the city once a day for 6 days - all
follow/agreeing with the Lord's command to Joshua ... can you see
the mocking of the soldiers inside the city? ... then on the 7th
day they marched around the city seven times, followed by a great
shout ... and the walls came tumbling down! ... the whole city
was destroyed - except the house/family of RAHAB, today's HERO OF
FAITH - SHE HELPED GOD'S PEOPLE. Since I don't look any as
Rahab, I will let Joshua tell you the story.

  I. "Good morning ... I am JOSHUA, leader of Israel.

"Before we entered the land God promised us, I sent 2 spies to
Jericho, the first city we had to defeat ... I needed to know how
strong that city was. They went to the house of Rahab, a
prostitute ... why? - because they wanted to buy sex? ... no,
they knew that prostitutes often hear military secrets from the
men that come to visit them; they want to find out what she knew.
The Lord led her to help us ... she heard about the wonderful,
mighty things God did for us during the 40 years since we left
Egypt. The king of Jericho heard about our spies, and sent
soldiers looking for them - they knew where to look, too! besides
they already left ... but maybe you can catch them if you hurry!'
Then she went up to the roof, where she had told them to hide ...
she helped them escape. But first they promised that her house &
family would not be destroyed when God would help us
defeat/destroy the city ... she should tie a red cord to the
window, so we would not touch that house. That is exactly what
happened later her great-great-grandson became king of Israel -
David ... so Rahab, the prostitute of Jericho, was an ancestor of
Jesus Christ!"

 II. Why does the Bible praise Rahab?

Because she was a prostitute? - no way! ... that is NOT how she
helped God's people! ... selling her body for sex was shameful -
the Bible never praises anyone for shameful/wrong use of sex
(look at David and his adultery with Bathsheba, or Solomon with
his many wives, or the prostitute Jesus forgave but then told -
"Go and sin no more!"). God made our bodies, and gave us the

gift of sex - so that we should keep it holy/pure, using that
precious gift in holy marriage with love & caring ... not the way
so many people use that gift today outside of marriage. The
Bible does not say, but I am sure that she gave up that wrong way
of life after seeing the Lord's salvation ... just as God wants
His people now to give up wrong uses of sex because we have seen
His salvation earthly sins in your heart; for example, sex sins &
not-clean living. Because of those things God's anger will come
to people who do not obey him."

The Bible praises Rahab because of her faith - that the Lord will
give victory to His people - even though she could not see how
that would happen! ... so she became part of God's people through
faith. In the same way we become God's people through faith -
faith that the Lord will give victory to His people ... no, faith
that He has ALREADY given us that victory ... the Bible says,
"You have been (finish!) raised to life - new life - with Christ."
God destroyed the enemy (stronger than Jericho!) - that enemy was
sin & death ... He did it in a strange battle - on a cross ...
His Son died for sinners! ... but that death had power to defeat
the enemy ... Jesus's resurrection proved it! Now "thanks be to
God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!" (1
Cor. 15.57)

With faith we see/know the Lord has given victory to His people.
With faith we see/know that this victory gives us the power to
put-away the sins that ruin/destroy our lives ... But with
faith we know the Lord Jesus has forgiven all our sins by His
death & resurrection ... He shows His love to us ... He saves us
from our enemy Satan ... He makes us joined with His people ...
with faith we rejoice and celebrate - with Rahab and Joshua and
all God's people!