



Lesson 66

Rahab and the Spies

Story Elements

- **Text:** Joshua 2:1-24
- **Setting:** approx. 1404 B.C., near Shittim, and Jericho.
- **Characters** God, Joshua, Rahab, and two Hebrew spies
- **Plot:** Two spies from Israel reconnoiter Jericho and escape capture with the help of Rahab the harlot.
- **Key word(s) “):** “...the LORD hath given ____ the land...” (v 9) “...the LORD hath given ____ the land...” (v 14) “...Truly the LORD hath delivered into our hands all the land...” (v 24)
- **Climax** *Joshua 2:5 ...whither the men went I wot not: pursue after them quickly; for ye shall overtake them.*

Rahab Foils Jericho’s King

1. (v 1) Joshua wisely sent two spies into Jericho to discover their defenses – Jericho was one of the most _____ cities of its day.

APPLICATION → If God promised Joshua that he would be successful, why did Joshua take precautions by sending in two spies? Why didn’t he commence the invasion immediately? Matthew Henry answers: “Faith in God’s promise ought not to supersede but encourage our diligence in the use of proper means. Joshua is sure he has God with him, and yet sends men before him. We do not trust God, but tempt him, if our expectations slacken our _____.”¹

2. The two spies crept into Jericho unnoticed and sought refuge in a harlot’s house for several strategic reasons:²
 - a. They would not be _____ in such a setting.
 - b. A house on a _____ (vs. 15) would provide an excellent place to recon the surroundings.
 - c. A house in such a location would also provide a convenient _____.
3. (vv 3-7) Despite their strategy, the spies are discovered by Jericho’s authorities and the king commands Rahab to surrender the spies. Rahab admitted the two men came to her house but denied knowing their origin and claimed they left the city and could be overtaken if pursued _____.

APPLICATION → Was Rahab’s lying to protect the spies a sin? _____. The works for which her faith was evidenced (Jam 2:25) was that she sought to help the spies not in how she helped the spies. God cannot lie and neither do those who pursue holiness. But true faith is recognized even in an impure setting.

Rahab’s Faith in Israel’s God

4. (vv 8-11) After fooling their pursuers, Rahab shared her belief in Jehovah with the two Hebrew spies:
 - a. She confessed that all of Canaan is terrified of the Hebrews after receiving the news of the miraculous _____ and their victory over the Amorites.
 - b. She believed that Jehovah had given Canaan to _____, and that Israel’s victory was inevitable.
 - c. She confessed that Jehovah is God “in _____ above and _____ beneath.” This is a profound confession of faith from one who was a polytheistic idolater. Not surprisingly, Rahab is mentioned along with others of great faith:

¹ Matthew Henry, *Matthew Henry’s Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 292.

² John MacArthur, *The MacArthur Bible Commentary* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2005) 258.

