

God's Work in Unexpected Ways

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- I. Opportunity is such a fragile thing . . . it comes and then it is gone. Proverbs - time and chance come to all men. So many have lived out the tragedy of lost opportunity.
 - A. Education - If only I'd . . .
 - B. Business opportunity - If only I'd . . .
 - C. Chance for a kind word - If only I'd . . .
 - D. There are even larger matters . . . more significant things . . . heaven and hell . . . right and wrong . . . holy and unholy . . . to live a godly life or otherwise.
 - E. Time and chance come to all men.

- II. **(Heb 11:31 KJV) By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.**

- III. Perhaps you are of a mind that you are beyond chance. Living in the desperate emptiness of a place called hopeless. Locked into the cadence of a life that is not working. What a tragedy such a hopeless existence is.
 - A. What if striding over the horizon of that place called "hopeless" there came a rescuer . . . call him "Opportunity."
 - B. Would you welcome him? Would you open your heart to the possibility he presented? Well . . . would you? What would you be willing to do to allow there to be a change of course for your life? Would you seize the moment?
 - C. No matter your background . . . the ugliness of your past life . . . such a moment comes - what you do with it is up to you.

- IV. (Josh 2:1-4 KJV) And Joshua the son of Nun sent out of Shittim two men to spy secretly, saying, Go view the land, even Jericho. And they went, and came into an harlot's house, named Rahab, and lodged there. {2} And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, Behold, there came men in hither to night of the children of Israel to search out the country. {3} And the king of Jericho sent unto Rahab, saying, Bring forth the men that are come to thee, which are entered into thine house: for they be come to search out all the country. {4} And the woman took the two men, and hid them, and said thus, There came men unto me, but I wist not whence they were:
 - A. Rahab had four things against her:

1. Resident of Jericho
2. Pagan
3. Woman
4. Harlot

B. {8} And before they were laid down, she came up unto them upon the roof; {9} And she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you. {10} For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed. {11} And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath. {12} Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the LORD, since I have showed you kindness, that ye will also show kindness unto my father's house, and give me a true token: {13} And that ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death. {14} And the men answered her, Our life for yours, if ye utter not this our business. And it shall be, when the LORD hath given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with thee.

C. {18} Behold, when we come into the land, thou shalt bind this line of scarlet thread in the window which thou didst let us down by: and thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father's household, home unto thee. {19} And it shall be, that whosoever shall go out of the doors of thy house into the street, his blood shall be upon his head, and we will be guiltless: and whosoever shall be with thee in the house, his blood shall be on our head, if any hand be upon him. {20} And if thou utter this our business, then we will be quit of thine oath which thou hast made us to swear. {21} And she said, According unto your words, so be it. And she sent them away, and they departed: and she bound the scarlet line in the window.

D. Chapter 6 outlines the fulfillment of the agreement that the spies entered into with Rahab.

V. Opportunity came knocking . . . but it was the fact of Rahab seizing the opportunity – by her faith that brought realization to that opportunity. Opportunity comes your way today . . . but what will you do with that chance?

VI. Several things to observe about Rahab's faith:

- A. It was a *saving faith* - it worked
- B. It was a singular faith - not one other person had it.

- C. It was a stable faith - over the ensuing months when the Israelites did not arrive and then when they arrived and started marching around the walls. She kept the cord in the window.
- D. It was a *sanctifying faith*.
 - 1. She left her past life behind.
 - 2. Married Salmon . . . became a significant player in Israel's history.
 - 3. Not enough for an encounter with God here today!

VII. Preach Acts 2 and 4 - Barnabas!

(Mat 1:5 KJV) And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab; (Rahab) and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse; - She was the mother-in-law of Ruth. David's great -grand mother