



Midweek Study Notes

5th December 2021

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Night Seasons - Part 2

We have previously looked at the stories of Tamar and Ruth, two women of faith whose decision to serve the living God saw them become a vital part of the genealogy of Jesus Christ.

This week Angela continued on this theme by exploring the story of Rahab, a Canaanite woman living in Jericho who is the only female to be mentioned in the 'Hall of Faith' in **Hebrews 11**.



Reread **Joshua 2:1-13** before proceeding.

The people of Jericho were gripped with fear, but Rahab stood in awe of God because a seed of faith had been sown, and as she continued to believe in and follow Him that seed grew. *Is there a place of fear in your own life that you need to be set free from? How can following God help us overcome our fears and insecurities?*

The Israelite spies promised that if Rhab protected them, she in turn would be protected when the Israelites took control of the land, and we know from **Joshua 6:25** that this promise was fulfilled. *Can you give an example of when you have seen a promise from God fulfilled in your life?*

In the Bible, Rahab's name always comes with the 'label' of harlot or prostitute, but when she is mentioned as part of the genealogy of Jesus Christ in **Matthew 1:5**, that label is removed. *God transformed Rahab from prostitute to royalty.*

This is a powerful reminder that the labels of *our* past are removed when we encounter Jesus. Sometimes the labels don't come off easily, and sometimes people might even throw our old labels *back* at us, but inviting Jesus into our life and asking for our sins to be forgiven means our slate is wiped clean. *Jesus gives us a brand new label, and it tells us that we are sons and daughters of the living God.*

Have you ever been given, or given yourself, a label? Has knowing God helped you to remove or replace this label, or do you find that it still 'sticks'?

Further Discussion Suggestion - Worship

Mervyn talked to us about worship, which he has been thinking about a lot since he started reading the book of Nehemiah. God set aside a whole tribe of Levites to care for the temple and show the people how to worship Him, which reminds us how important worship is in the day to day life of a Christian.

Worshipping God changes the spiritual atmosphere by pushing back the spiritual darkness; in our own lives, in the lives of those around us and even in our local community.

We often associate worship with singing, but there are many different ways we can worship God (for example by dancing, obeying Him, putting Him first, removing idols in our life, serving in our church, loving others, sacrificing something).

How do you prefer to worship God? Does worshipping ever make you feel uncomfortable or self-conscious? Do you ever feel led to express your worship to God in a new or different way?

Read the following verses. What do they teach us about worship? Do they encourage us to worship God in a different way to how we might be used to?

Exodus 20:1-5

1 Chronicles 16:29

Isaiah 29:13

Psalms 150:1-6

John 4:23-24

Romans 12:1



As part of her talk on Rahab, Angela also touched on the subject of worship when she mentioned that whatever we do for the Lord, however small it might seem, God loves it! *He takes great delight in our offerings no matter their size.*

Spend some time worshipping God in whatever way feels most appropriate.

Thank God that He made us in His image, and ask Him to help us to live as the person He created us to be, free from any unhelpful, damaging or false labels.