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sermon notes | december 4, 2011

Rahab was a prostitute in Jericho who heard the story of how God had freed Israel from slavery in Egypt. She believed that that same God could rescue her from her life, so she chose to protect and help Israel's spies. As a result of her faith, she and her family are saved from death and welcomed not only into Israel, but into the family line of Jesus, the Messiah. Her life is a lesson to us: since we too have been saved from slavery, have been raised from death to life, we must tell our stories. Telling our stories reminds us where we've come from and how God has saved us. But our stories also point the way home for the Rahabs who are still in the world today.

Scripture for further reading:

Psalm 111; Habakkuk 3:1-2; Matthew 5:14-16; 2 Corinthians 2:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Questions for Discussion:

1. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus has a prostitute in his family? Why did Matthew include such a scandalous detail?
2. Who is Rahab? What do we know about her from the stories in Joshua 2 and 6?
3. How does Rahab demonstrate, both by belief and action, that she serves Israel's God instead of her local gods? Why do you think she did that?
4. What is your story of rescue? What parallels does your story have with Rahab's?
5. Why do you think so few Christians talk about how God has rescued them? Do you feel comfortable talking about your story of rescue? Why?
6. With whom can you share your story this week?