

## Week Six – Summarized Study Guide Notes



- Jesus gives us a new identity worth celebrating.
- Its not easy to change your identity.
  - You must fill out multiple documents.
  - Attend several legal hearings.
  - Change your name on your SS Card.
  - And get in touch with Law Enforcement.
- We will switch gears in our last week's study in the NT about Rahab.
  - We discover how God offers us a fresh start and new identity through Jesus.
  - It does not matter about our past
  - Jesus does not only save us from our past, He gives us freedom to face the future without fear and to live out our faith in Him.
  - Jesus calls us to share our story so others can experience His saving Grace and new identity given only by Him.
- From a Prostitute to a Princess!
  - The NT reference to Rahab takes place in Matthew.
    - This lists the genealogy of Jesus.
- These names matter to God.
  - They were a part of His plan of redemption.
  - He knows where we fit into His eternal plan and purposes.
  - Where we fit is important to God
- Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Daniel, Solomon.... To the birth of Jesus Christ
- It was unusual in that day and age for women's names to be included in a genealogy, because typically the family line was trace through men.
  - This was also written in a culture where women were considered inferior.
- Rahab is an incredible example of the grace of God at work.
- He gave Rahab a new identity.
  - Dealt with her past
  - Gave her freedom to face the future without fear.
- Rahab was not just delivered and left outside the camp of the Israelites or enslaved or made a second-class citizen.
  - Rahab was richly blessed by God.
  - Grafted into a new family.
  - Made part of a new community of faith.
- Abraham, Isaac, Jacob.... Salmon and RAHAB, Boaz, Ruth, Obed, Jesse.....Jacob, Joseph the husband of Mary (Virgin Mary) and JESUS CHRIST.

- A picture of the gospel
- 2 Corinthians 5:17
- Rahab, the prostitute became Rahab the Jewish princess.
  - She married into the Jewish nation (one of the spies was a prince she married)
  - She became a part of the lineage of Jesus Christ.
- Since Rahab was a Canaanite, why could she live in Israel and marry an Israelite?
  - Rahab WAS NOT a Canaanite anymore.
    - By faith she became an Israelite
    - She was a woman of faith in God.
    - She was no longer a pagan.
- If you are in Christ, you are not who you once were.
  - You are a new creation.
  - You have a new identity.
  - You have new papers (your name is written in the Book of Life)
- We are all Rahabs!
- We were all born rebellions against God.
- We are all prone to going our way and doing our own thing.
- We were all born hopeless and helpless.
- Apart from the Grace of God and the scarlet cord-the blood of Jesus Christ, that was shed to pay for our sins.
- No matter our past, we can be saved through Jesus Christ.
  - No matter how hopelessly lost we might think others are, they can be saved as well.
- Rahab's salvation was not based on her character or anything good she had done.
  - She lived in a wicked city.
  - She led a wicked life.
  - She was not saved because of her goodness or that she had cleaned up her act.
  - She was saved by GRACE.
  - This is what the GOSPEL is all about!
- The Gospel=Abounding Sin & Super Abounding Grace
- Rahab's story also shows us the lengths God will go to in order to redeem and rescue hopelessly lost sinners.
- One reason God sent the spies was to find Rahab and rescue her from destruction.
  - He sent them for her salvation.
  - What a redeeming God we have!
  - He will spare no expense and go to any lengths to bring about our salvation.
- Hebrews 11 – The hall of Faith Chapter

- By faith, the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.
- Rahab was saved by faith.
  - Her willingness to express hospitality to the spies was an evidence and expression of her faith.
- Faith In ACTION
  - If you have truly been saved, then your faith will be demonstrated in your behavior.
- In Hebrews Chapter 11, we find Rahab the prostitute with Sarah. James uses her and Abraham, the father of the Jewish faith, as illustrations of people who had dynamic, saving faith.
- The theological definition of justification is “declaration of righteousness”. That means that God sees us the same way that He sees His sinless Son.
- God’s Word is clear that faith and grace are the “gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”
  - We are not saved by what we do.
  - We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus.
  - The works of Abraham and Rahab do demonstrate that they had in fact been made right with God and had saving faith (faith without works is dead)
  - In order for someone’s faith to be true faith, it has to be backed up by some kind of action!
- If Rahab had a changed identity, why is she still referred to as “Rahab the Prostitute”?
  - The Bible does not tell us specifics, but perhaps Rahab wanted to remember where God found her and what He had redeemed her from.
  - Beyond this, Rahab’s past was part of her life message.
  - It was her God Story.
  - It was a meaning of reaching others with God’s grace.
  - If in the NT it just said “Rahab” we might forget. Rahab who? And we would think; *Well, she must have been a great woman who deserved the grace of God.*
  - *However, Scripture is not going to let us forget where she had been.*
  - *Through her story, “Rahab the Prostitute” is still sharing a message about God’s grace and mercy to this day and until Jesus returns.*

- Often people will open up their hearts to someone who's transparent about the past and tell them things they would never tell someone else-because they know the person understands. They know that person has been there.
  - They see in her Rahab, not just where she had been, but where God has brought her and how God has transformed her.
  - They see here, they see hope.
- God also wants to use YOUR STORY, no matter how messy it might be.
  - It does not mean you have to name it everywhere you go.
  - God wants to use your past and His glorious grace in your life in overcoming it.
- The ultimate purpose of the stories God has written in our lives is to give Him glory and point others back to Him.
- You ARE a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you WERE not a people, but NOW you ARE God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 1 Peter 2:9-10

WE HAVE A NEW IDENTITY IN JESUS!!!!!!

