



SERIES: FEBRUARY – MARCH FAITH IN REAL LIFE

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Friday, 03/04/2022

Scripture: James 2:25-26

TITLE: Patriarch or Prostitute?

What made Steve Rogers worthy of becoming Captain America? Was it his good looks? Was it his impressive physique? Was it his intelligence? None of those moved the commanders in the Marvel movie to transform this person from wimp to winner. It was his character. It was the inner being that made the difference. As the old adage goes “never judge a book by its cover.”

How much more so for the children of God. You see, it doesn’t matter if you start off as a prostitute or a patriarch. It doesn’t matter if you begin as king or a citizen. It doesn’t matter if you come as a religious zealot or an agnostic. God welcomes everyone.

Don’t believe me? Here is what James says in James 2:25-26 (CSB).

In the same way, wasn’t Rahab the prostitute also justified by works in receiving the messengers and sending them out by a different route? For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

If you’re joining us for the first time or the first time in a while, I’m glad you are here. We are working our way through the book of James. This week we’ve been looking a well-known passage discussing the connection between our faith and works.

James continues to press the point that saving faith works. As he would put it in verses 17 and here in 26 “faith without works is dead.”

And he uses a surprising example following Abraham in the previous verses. Here he uses Rahab the prostitute. He says that she was justified by works. What is James referring to? It’s the story from Joshua 2. When the spies from Israel came into Jericho, Rahab put them up, hid them when the king sought them, and eventually helped them escape by lowering them on a rope from the roof of her house.

As we discovered two days ago, justified here doesn’t not mean declared righteous before God but instead vindicated before people. She demonstrated her faith in the one true God by her actions.

Then James says, it’s like a body. For it to be alive it must have its spirit inside. As the Spirit is and displays life, so too our actions are evidence of saving faith. Saving faith works.

But don’t miss the beauty of James’ illustration here. God saves and uses the patriarchs and the prostitutes. He includes everyone who turns from their sin. That is great news. It’s not about what you’ve done. It’s about what Christ did.

So here's my challenge for you today: Share your story. Rahab had an incredible story of salvation and transformation. Abraham did too. I do. And so do you. So share the difference Jesus Christ has made in your life. Share it in the comments below and share it with someone who needs to hear that good news.

When we share the soul saving and life changing Gospel we will win the day.