

Repentance Part 2. The Repentance of Rahab

“1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God; 2 As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. 3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. 4 John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.” (Mark 1:1-4 KJV)

We continue to speak in this message about repentance. As we can see from **Mark 1** that the message of John the Baptist who came to prepare the way for the Lord Jesus was a message of repentance for the remission of sins. The same we read in Luke, **“Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judaea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of Ituraea and of the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias the tetrarch of Abilene, 2 Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. 3 And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins;” (Luke 3:1-3 KJV)**

Even after John the Baptist was put in prison, when Jesus came and started His ministry His message was the message of repentance, **“14 Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, 15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.” (Mark 1:14-15 KJV)** Jesus spoke directly to the people to repent and to believe in the gospel. So clearly Jesus followed the right sequence; repentance then to believe in the gospel, that Jesus is the Messiah, who came to save the world from sin by His death on the cross; so salvation will come and people can enter the Kingdom of God.

Jesus also told His disciples after His resurrection from the death the following: **“46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: 47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.” (Luke 24:46-47 KJV)** which is mean that Christ after his suffering and resurrection from the dead that repentance and remission of sins was to be preached in His name. **So clearly is shown here that the message of Christ needed to be linked with the preaching of repentance so forgiveness of sins will take place and salvation will follow.**

The apostle of Jesus responded to Christ, and indeed Peter in the day of Pentecost preached about Christ, His death and resurrection and called the people to repent of their sins and get baptized in the name of Jesus for the remission of their sins, **“38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” (Acts 2:38 KJV)** Peter continued to urge the people to leave the life of sin and to come out from the wicked and crooked generation; to come out from those who did not believe in Jesus, **“40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.” (Acts 2:40 KJV)** **So part of repentance is to come out from the wicked and pervert generation. Those who repented and got respond they received water Baptism, “41 Then they that**

gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.” (Acts 2:41 KJV) **After repentance the believers of the Lord Jesus Christ needed to be water baptized to bury the old life of sin.**

Apostle Paul after his conversion started to preach the message, and his message was the message of repentance as we read here, **“21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Acts 20:21 KJV)**

Repentance means complete change of life, a new creation, with a new plan from God for life. We are going to study now the life of Rahab the prostitute and how she repented and came back to God, how God blessed her and her life became a blessing to the people of God, and even today her life is such a blessing to meditate.

Her name is mentioned in the New Testament for more than one time, **“3 And Judas begat Phares and Zara of Thamar; and Phares begat Esrom; and Esrom begat Aram; 4 And Aram begat Aminadab; and Aminadab begat Naasson; and Naasson begat Salmon; 5 And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse;” (Matthew 1:3-5 KJV)**

Rahab or Rachab, in her previous life, before she came to the true God she was living and working as a prostitute. The New Testament speaks about her regarding her stand in giving lodging to the spies that were sent by Joshua to spy out the city of Jericho, **“31 By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.” (Hebrews 11:31 KJV)** Rahab chose not to perish, but she chose life and peace when she received the spies and received the message they carried and embraced their mission. She made her choice and she decided to follow God. **“25 Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?” (James 2:25 KJV)** **Faith without deeds is dead, and Rahab was not justified by faith only but also by her deeds in receiving, believing and protecting the spies that were sent to her.**

Rahab's repentance we can trace it more clearly if you go and read the book of Joshua; you can find out that Rahab gave lodging to the spies, showed them hospitality, and hid them from the men of the king of Jericho. Rahab was willing to risk her life to protect the spies from the hand of the king of Jericho. Let us read, **“1 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. (Notice here no other house in the city received them but Rahab only. Why? They did not agree nor consent to their mission and the message or the teaching that were carrying with them. But Rahab opened her life and her house to the people of God and she showed hospitality to them; she gave food and lodging. Out of the whole city of Jericho was one house and one family responded. **In repentance life needed to be changed and do the good work that God wanted them to do).** 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. (Rahab placed herself under the risk of the king. She did not**

delight to keep her friendship with the king, because she decided to believe in the King of kings, Jesus, our Joshua to bring us into eternal life). **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: 5 And it came to pass about the time of shutting of the gate, when it was dark, that the men went out: whither the men went I wot not: pursue after them quickly; for ye shall overtake them. 6 But she had brought them up to the roof of the house, and hid them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order upon the roof. 7 And the men pursued after them the way to Jordan unto the fords: and as soon as they which pursued after them were gone out, they shut the gate.” (Joshua 2:1-7 KJV)** Rahab worked it out to hide them and protect them from the king of Jericho, and she succeeded in doing that. Some they say that she told lie. That was not a lie that God will consider as sin, but that was mandatory to protect the people of God. **Repentance is not to give any information to the enemies, even to the false brethren who work with the devil which want to destroy the church. We should hide serious information as the wise men from the east hid the place of the birth of Jesus when they did not come back to Herod who was looking for Jesus to kill Him.**

Rahab had heard the good news about the Lord and she also expressed to the spies her faith and her trust in the only true God our Lord. She also believed that God would give the land to His people, the Israelites for their inheritance as He promised them: **“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.” (Joshua 2:8-11 KJV)** All the inhabitants of the city they heard about the Israelites and what God did for them, but they did not repent and they did not surrender their life to God and to those whom God sent to them, except Rahab.

Part of Rahab repentance was her plead for her family to be saved, **“12 Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the LORD, since I have shewed you kindness, that ye will also shew 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.” (Joshua 2:12-13 KJV)** Rahab asked for the salvation of her family members, her father, and her mother, her brothers and sisters to be saved.

Rahab did not plead for the life of her boyfriends and those men who attended her in her business to be saved; that was another sign of her repentance and another sign that shows her true conversion and her willingness to live in holiness and away from sin. Rahab was not married and she knew that to come to the true God and to be with His people then she needed to depart from any illicit extramarital relationship. Many who come to Christ, speak about their old boyfriends or their old girlfriends. **Boyfriend and girlfriend are similar to extramarital relationships and are considered immoralities.**

The Word of God tells us the following, **“17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” (2 Corinthians 5:17 KJV)** God had a good plan for Rahab and God has good plans for those who come to Christ and He wants them to live the new plans that He has for them. Rahab forgot her old life and decided to live her new life for God therefore she decided to leave her old life, her relationships with other men, and even her profession.

The example of Rahab can be applied to the life of the church today. Many come to the Lord Jesus Christ and in that decision and as part of their repentance they need to leave the old life in pertaining to the boyfriend and girlfriend relationship and the rest of the extramarital affairs.

The spies assured Rahab about her request if First, she will not utter their business to others: **“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. 15 Then she let them down by a cord through the window: for her house was upon the town wall, and she dwelt upon the wall. 16 And she said unto them, Get you to the mountain, lest the pursuers meet you; and hide yourselves there three days, until the pursuers be returned: and afterward may ye go your way. (She gave them intelligence in order to protect them. Her heart was with the people of God and no more with her own people; these all shows the changes that took place in her). 17 And the men said unto her, We will be blameless of this thine oath which thou hast made us swear. 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.” (Joshua 2:14-21 KJV)**

The spies stressed on Rahab, Second, to do this very thing, to bind the scarlet thread on her window: **“17 And the men said unto her, We will be blameless of this thine oath which thou hast made us swear. 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.” (Joshua 2:17-18 KJV)** And, Third, the spies gave her permission only to bring in her father's household, **“18 And thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father's household, home unto thee.” (Joshua 2:18 KJV)** **In the same way, we as church should not allow the new convert to bring in with them their boyfriends or their girlfriends; we should not allow or condone immoralities in the life of the church.**

Regarding marriage for the new convert, God had a new plan for the new believers in Christ and He will not consider their old previous foolish fruitless affairs. You may ask how they will marry? This is the answer: They will marry as Rahab got married. Rahab truly repented and she understood the lesson quickly. She wanted all

her family to be saved; therefore she needed to be bound with her commitment so that the salvation of God will flow in the life of her family. **Simply, Rahab will neither be able to be accepted by the people of God, nor she will be able to introduce the holiness of God into the life of her family unless she would get rid of her old extramarital affairs and her old prostitution, profession and business.** Immediately she put the scarlet line in the window, and for sure Rahab immediately went ahead and cleansed her life and her house from things unpleasant to God, and she brought all her kindred into her house to bring them to God. That is real and true repentance.

The city of Jericho after its wall collapsed, everything in that city was destroyed and devoted to God as we read here, ***“22 But Joshua had said unto the two men that had spied out the country, Go into the harlot's house, and bring out thence the woman, and all that she hath, as ye sware unto her. 23 And the young men that were spies went in, and brought out Rahab, and her father, and her mother, and her brethren, and all that she had; and they brought out all her kindred, and left them without the camp of Israel. 24 And they burnt the city with fire, and all that was therein: only the silver, and the gold, and the vessels of brass and of iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD. 25 And Joshua saved Rahab the harlot alive, and her father's household, and all that she had; and she dwelleth in Israel even unto this day; because she hid the messengers, which Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.” (Joshua 6:22-25 KJV)*** Joshua, when he took the city, Rahab and her father's household were spared and were put outside the camp to be further checked and verified, ***“23 And the young men that were spies went in, and brought out Rahab, and her father, and her mother, and her brethren, and all that she had; and they brought out all her kindred, and left them without the camp of Israel.” (Joshua 6:23 KJV)*** **The church should be cautious and examine carefully the life of the new believers who are coming to Christ. The church should not immediately give a ministry to those who are new comers and the new converts unless after they are well examined and their spiritual status is cleared.**

Rahab did not put in her mind the fear of losing the old relationships with other men, and she did not request the spies if they can arrange for her to have a husband and family. You should not be afraid to leave the old life and the old relationships. **You need to trust God that He has a good plan for you.** Paul said to the Corinthians, ***“2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.” (2 Corinthians 11:2 KJV)*** **Living for Christ should be the only motive and the purpose of coming to God, and no other reason. And as you obey in such a way as Rahab did, a reward from God is waiting for you and you will receive it.**

The obedience of Rahab, her true repentance, and her faith can be traced further:

- Rahab gave up her profession and her source of income for the sake of God.
- Rahab gave up her boyfriends and the rest of her friends for the sake of God.
- Rahab lost her house which was in the wall of Jericho for the sake of God.
- Rahab lost all her countrymen and her city that she was grown up for the sake of God.
- Rahab trusted God, that even the wall shall fall and even she was in her house which was in the wall of Jericho, she still believed that God can and will save her and those who were with her from the collapsed wall.

For all her obedience, as you read here, Rahab was rewarded and integrated into the people of God and she was given a family and a ministry, ***“3 And Judas begat Phares and Zara of Thamar; and Phares begat Esrom; and Esrom begat Aram; 4 And Aram begat Aminadab; and Aminadab begat Naasson; and Naasson begat Salmon; 5 And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse.” (Matthew 1:3-5 KJV)*** The husband of Rahab or Rachab was Salmon the son of Nahshon who was the leader of the tribe of Judah in the wilderness, ***“10 And Ram begat Amminadab; and Amminadab begat Nahshon, prince of the children of Judah; 11 And Nahshon begat Salma, and Salma begat Boaz.” (1 Chronicles 2:10-11 KJV)*** God rewarded Rahab with a ministry and rewarded His church with that marriage; for from Rahab King David came and later on, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the head of the church and the captain of our salvation, ***“5 And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse; 6 And Jesse begat David the king; and David the king begat Solomon of her that had been the wife of Urias.” (Matthew 1:5-6 KJV)***

My Dear and Beloved: Rahab had a great testimony and her repentance had encouraged the people of God and increased their faith and encouraged them to go forward to take the city of Jericho, ***“22 And they went, and came unto the mountain, and abode there three days, until the pursuers were returned: and the pursuers sought them throughout all the way, but found them not. 23 So the two men returned, and descended from the mountain, and passed over, and came to Joshua the son of Nun, and told him all things that befell them: 24 And they said unto Joshua, Truly the LORD hath delivered into our hands all the land; for even all the inhabitants of the country do faint because of us.” (Joshua 2:22-24 KJV)*** The information that Rahab passed to the two spies and her stand with them and her support to their mission had encouraged and revived the whole church to go forward to serve God. **Your repentance and your stand with God and His church and your input in whatever way, is of great impact on the life of the church and the ministry.**

The Lord has always a good plan for you and His church. This plan will unfold and will come true only when His church and you be willing to fully obey Him and do His will in following the principles of His Word and applying the preparations for Godly marriages then we can see new Godly marriages and families take place and new Godly children raise and the ministries of God and His will continue.

Let us come now to the Lord and be willing to repent from all our sins and renounce them. Let us be willing to reproduce the fruit of repentance. Let us yield to God and to the teaching and the instruction that we received in this message. Let us commit ourselves to live to God and to do His will and to start to serve Him and live our lives for Him.

My Prayer: *Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sin, who was buried but rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord today I repent from the following sins and wrongdoings: _____ . Today I put my faith only in You, I commit my life from this day on to live for you and to serve you. Lord Jesus I commit myself to the ordinance of water Baptism. Help me Lord to be changed and*

to follow your ways. Thank You, Lord, for the eternal and full life with You. This is my prayer in Jesus' name, Amen

Lord I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who committed their lives to live for you. Lord bless them and protect them and provide all their needs. Lord grant them joy and peace. Lord fill them with the Holy Spirit and give them the spiritual gifts that they need in their lives to go on and serve you.

Lord bless us as a church and lead us and open to us new doors to evangelize and share our life testimonies with others so they will know you, repent of their sins and follow you. Lord enable us to go and make new disciples and to baptize in water those who had repented. Lord lead us and help us to train new workers to serve you. Lord help us to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

Repentance Part 2. Mark 1:1-4. Luke 3:1-3. Mark 1:14-15. Luke 24:46-47. Acts 2:38, 40-41. Acts 20:21. Matthew 1:3-6. Hebrews 11:31. James 2:25. Joshua 2:1-24. 2 Corinthians 5:17. Joshua 6:22-25. 2 Corinthians 11:2. 1 Chronicles 2:10-11.

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