

# MOMS *OF THE* BIBLE

RHONDA STOPPE



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## Moms of the Bible

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To my amazing father, Papa Bill. Thank you for choosing to follow Jesus. Your surrender to Him and genuine love for the Lord transformed my childhood—and our home—into a beautiful place of love, joy, and refuge. Dad, I am forever grateful to you for showing me the way to new life in Christ. All through my whole life, I have been inspired by your kindness, generosity, and unconditional love for me. I adore you, Daddy. And I absolutely love watching you and Oma generously love and nurture my children and their children.

To my precious daughters and daughters-in-law, Kylene, Meredith, Jessy, and Kayla. What an absolute joy it is to watch you lovingly guide your children with God's wisdom, kindness, and love. I pray that your children will follow Jesus all the days of their lives, and that each will one day rise up and call you blessed:

Kelsey, William,  
Karis, Ivy, Eliza, Mayzie,  
Ledger, Winslet, Rhodes, Hadden,  
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## GOD'S CALLING FOR YOU AS A MOM

**I** *ll be a better mom tomorrow*, I whispered to myself before drifting off to sleep. But when tomorrow never came, mom-guilt plagued my anguished soul. Being a fun-loving, good mom was what I hoped for. But in reality, I spent many days in survival mode; snapping at my kids when they spilled their milk and worrying over how we were going to pay for their extracurricular activities.

I wasn't always on the struggle bus. Mom-life has seasons of highs and lows, right? Some years, I felt like I was totally nailing this mom thing. I call those times the highlight reel of my parenting experience—the years I hope my kids will replay in their minds when they consider the type of mother I was to them.

When I was ready to change, I looked for help in the pages of Scripture. I needed to learn how to live out my faith in genuine ways so my kids would want to follow Christ too. I found help from reading about moms in the Bible. With each testimony of their very real lives, I discovered hope and inspiration for myself.

These women didn't always get it right, but God redeemed their failures. In spite of their frailties, they were moms whom God had chosen for their time in history. I became enthralled to discover how these mothers influenced not only their own children but had a profound impact upon the cultures and generations in which they lived. *Down through the ages, the first teachers of godly world changers were not theologians; they were mothers. Let that sit with you for a moment.*

These stories transformed my life and influenced the way I raised my children. I believe the same will be true for you too.

Just like the moms of the Bible, this is your time in history. God has chosen you to raise your children in this generation. As you read through this book, I pray you will wake up each day inspired by the testimonies of these godly mothers and equipped to live wisely according to what we can learn from them.

May the record of these fearlessly courageous, redeemed from their flaws, and faithful women of worth ignite your soul toward new heights in your mothering journey. And may God raise up your children to be faith-filled warriors whom He uses to turn the world upside down for His kingdom and His glory!

Do you want to be a better mom? Me too. So, let's roll up our sleeves and begin!

Also, at the end of each chapter, you'll find a QR code that takes you to a short video clip of me teaching about the mother who is the focus of that chapter.

Bonus: Click the QR code below to watch me teach the message *Becoming the Mom You Always Hoped You Would Be*.

**To watch Rhonda teach on each chapter in this book,  
use this QR code or link:**

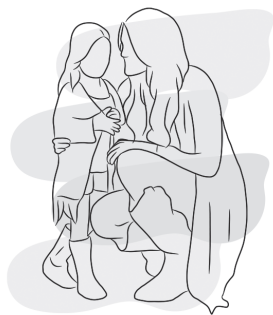
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PART 1

# FEARLESS MOMS







## CHAPTER 1

# A SHADY LADY WITH FEARLESS FAITH

*Rahab*

**JOSHUA 2**

Quickly. Up the stairs. Under these piles. They'll never think to look for you here."

Just as Rahab arranged the last stalk of flax over her visitors, there was a knock at her door. When she hesitated momentarily before answering, the knock became an urgent pounding.

At this point, did Rahab have second thoughts about her less-than-thought-out plan to hide these foreigners? Would her actions jeopardize all she had worked to attain? If the spies were discovered, she could lose everything. Her betrayal might even cost her life.

How had she gotten herself into this circumstance? She had woken up to what she thought would be an ordinary day. Hours earlier, Rahab had enjoyed breakfast upon her rooftop—a place where she enjoyed peaceful mornings after a busy night with clients. Sometimes she sat up there to take in the view over the city wall, upon which her house was built. Sometimes she pondered her life choices. But

recently, she had been considering the news passed along in the marketplace: “The Israelites are upon us! They’ve destroyed every nation in their path, and now they’re coming for us too!”

Jericho’s leaders had assured residents that no harm would come to them because their city was a sturdy fortress. No enemy had ever penetrated their walls. But this time felt different. The massive army of Jews camped across the Jordan River was supernaturally empowered by their God—and everybody knew it.

Rahab shuddered as she considered the possible impending doom from the notorious people who were said to worship the One true God, who was so unlike the hateful Canaanite gods El, Baal, and Asherah, among others.

Jehovah’s reputation preceded Him. News had traveled far and wide of the victories won by this God who protected His chosen people. Rahab wanted—no, she *needed*—to know more. But where would she learn of this God? She had no way of knowing her curiosity was about to be answered.

While enjoying the city view and pondering Israel’s powerful God, Rahab couldn’t help but worry about how an invasion would likely destroy her beautiful home, purchased after years of hard work. Not every woman in Jericho was wealthy enough to buy her own home. Rahab was proud of her success. Yet mingled with her pride was her shame over her less-than-honorable career path. Rahab was a prostitute, although she preferred the classier term “lady of the evening.”

So, later that day, when the spies happened upon her home, what possessed Rahab to jeopardize her own safety by hiding them? Hebrews 11:31 says she “received the spies with peace” (κῆρυ), meaning she not only hid them, but implicitly embraced their cause.

Instinctively, Rahab knew the right course of action was to hide these spies and rally behind them. Something was unusual about the kindhearted men; they hadn’t even inquired about her seductive

services. And something was certainly different about their God. She just had to know Him.

But for now, she would answer her door and concoct a believable story. I imagine the encounter went something like this:

“Can I help you gentlemen?” Rahab asked innocently while fluttering her long lashes.

“Where are they? The men. Someone said they saw them come in here,” barked one of the soldiers.

“Men? Come in here? Well, you know yourself how many men come and go from my establishment. If memory serves me, I believe you’ve even been here a time or two yourself, Captain,” Rahab replied sheepishly while looking downward, pretending to be embarrassed.

“Bring out the men who have come to you, who entered your house, for they have come to search out all the land” (Joshua 2:3).

Rahab flung open the door to allow them in. She was an expert at pretending to be comfortable during awkward situations, so she had no trouble making small talk while they searched her house.

When the soldiers made their way to her rooftop, she held her breath. Miraculously, nobody looked under the stalks. Soon, they returned downstairs to interrogate her further.

## **LITTLE WHITE LIES**

Rahab said, “True, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from. And when the gate was about to be closed at dark, the men went out. I do not know where the men went. Pursue them quickly, for you will overtake them” (Joshua 2:4-5).

I imagine that from the time she was a little girl, Rahab knew how to deceive. Her prevaricating skills proved effective when the soldiers believed her lie and left to pursue the men.

Did Rahab lie? Yes. Did God approve? What do you think? I believe we need to take a quick look at the right and wrong of Rahab’s deception. Many might say the end justified her means. But truth

be known, in God's eyes, it is *never* acceptable to lie. Consider this insight from a Bible scholar:

Scripture says, "Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, but those who deal truthfully are His delight" (Proverbs 12:22 NKJV). God Himself cannot lie, and therefore He cannot condone or sanction a lie...I see no need to justify Rahab's lie. Was it *necessary* for a greater good? Certainly not. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego might have escaped punishment by lying too...But there is no greater good than the truth—in fact they seized the opportunity to glorify God's name—and God was still able to save them from the furnace. He certainly could have saved Rahab and the spies without a lie.<sup>1</sup>

We don't need to rationalize Rahab's lie. In this moment, when she leaned toward faith, her knowledge of God was deficient. She would have no comprehension of the value God places on truthfulness. She was a product of her corrupt upbringing; deception was simply part of her culture.

Can you relate to Rahab's propensity to prevaricate? I can. Growing up and watching my mother weave untruths left a mark upon my value system. My "normal" was to observe her hiding, from my father, new clothes she had purchased, or not telling the whole story to keep from facing consequences.

Would I have called myself a liar when I spoke less than truthfully? Absolutely not. I thought I was a good kid who never intentionally lied. However, when faced with unwelcome repercussions, I followed my mother's example to mislead. When God finally opened my eyes to my situational ethics worldview, I was astonished to realize I had become a liar.

The ungodly practice of manipulating the truth was not easily unlearned. But thankfully, God showed me the error of my ways.

In kindness, He led me to repentance and broke my immoral habit of lying.

What about you? Maybe you can relate to my story, maybe not. But if practicing deception has become part of your character, won't you ask for God's forgiveness and help to turn from this evil practice? Yes, I said evil. In Proverbs 6:16-19, "a lying tongue" is found on a list of seven abominations God hates.

Remember, a student becomes like his teacher, so if your children observe your deceptions, they'll likely develop a habit of lying too. "Integrity is doing what is right, because it's right—no matter what the cost."<sup>2</sup> If you want to raise honest children of integrity, let it begin with you.

## GOD'S WAYS

*Whew—they are gone*, thought Rahab. I can just hear her whispering up the stairs, "The coast is clear!"

To be safe, the spies spent the night on her roof. But before they lay down to sleep, Rahab proclaimed her belief in God. She wanted them to understand the fearless faith behind her actions:

I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the LORD your God, He is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath (Joshua 2:9-11).

Imagine how the spies' courage would have bolstered upon learning

that tales about Jehovah's supernatural protection over Israel had traveled even to Jericho. Forty long years had passed since Israel's exodus from Egypt. Yet this Canaanite woman rehearsed His powerful acts as if they had occurred yesterday. Jehovah's reputation had most certainly preceded them.

Isn't it fascinating how God's purpose in stretching out His hand against the Egyptians was to demonstrate His power even to ungodly nations? Hearing of these miracles planted seeds of faith that eventually took root in Rahab's heart.

Read how God explains His purpose to none other than the hard-hearted Pharaoh:

This time I will send all my plagues on you yourself, and on your servants and your people, so that you may know that there is none like me in all the earth. For by now I could have put out my hand and struck you and your people with pestilence, and you would have been cut off from the earth. But for this purpose I have raised you up, to show you my power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth (Exodus 9:14-16).

God was not only interested in demonstrating His identity and power to the Egyptians and the Israelites. He purposed to draw people from every nation to faith in Himself—including our friend Rahab the harlot.

Have you ever witnessed an incredible act of God? When you do, you cannot help but tell others! Several years ago, wildfires raged through the mountains where we live in California. For nine days, we were evacuated. Every night our friend Matt, who was a game warden allowed to enter the fire zone, would call us with updates. Each night, we went to bed expecting our home would be lost. One day, Matt called to say, "I don't even know how to describe what I witnessed. But I now know how God must've parted the Red Sea."



Matt grew emotional as he explained what had happened as he was taking video of the fire raging toward our home as well as our daughter's house next door: "I didn't have the heart to video your houses burning up, so I turned off the camera. But then all of a sudden, a mighty wind rushed up my back and across the expanse between me and the fire. When the wind hit the fire, I expected it to burn even hotter. But then, miraculously, the fire rolled over on itself and burned out!"

When we were able to survey the damage that had occurred to our ranch, we saw a black line where the fire had simply burned out. There was still grass, bushes, and trees in the path that could have fueled the blaze, but God. He intervened, displayed His power and astounded us with His glorious might.

Oh, how we celebrated God's divine intervention! We tell the story of His greatness to our grandchildren and to anyone who listens. Even so, our account pales in comparison to God's parting of the Red Sea.<sup>3</sup> With a miracle of that magnitude, you can imagine how relentlessly those who witnessed the event told and retold the story far and wide.

All through history, God has spread accounts about Him through faithful witnesses for the purpose of drawing people to Himself to be saved. Listen to God's heart: "Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other" (Isaiah 45:22).

God's love for Rahab was displayed in the way He pursued her. On an ordinary day, He sent two spies to her home. But before her encounter with the Israelite men, God had stirred Rahab's soul to long for Him. Every time Rahab heard another story about the glorious acts of the God of Israel, He chiseled away at her idolatrous heart, causing her to wonder about this God who deeply cared for His people.

Isn't this an incredible glimpse at how God works to draw a person to saving faith even today? On many occasions, I've had the honor of sharing the gospel with someone I've just met. As we talk,

I catch sight of how God has already been working in their heart. Recently, God gave me an opportunity to share the hope of salvation with someone. Within minutes he said, “This is what I want. I’ve been looking for these answers!” I imagine Rahab shared a similar excitement when she encountered the spies.

As in Rahab’s day, God continues to stir people’s hearts toward faith in Christ. Maybe He is planting seeds in your heart today. (If you would like to learn more about what it means to follow Christ, please read the appendix, “How to Have a Relationship with Jesus.”)

## THE FEARLESS FAITH OF A SHADY LADY

Notice how the two spies didn’t have to convince Rahab to believe in their God. She was ready and waiting for the opportunity. Imagine how surprised those spies must have been when this shady lady not only offered to help them but declared belief in their God. From Joshua 2:9-11, let’s break down Rahab’s proclamation of belief:

- “I know that the LORD has given you the land” (Joshua 2:9).
- “We have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt. And what you did to the two kings of the Amorites” (Joshua 2:10).
- “As soon as we heard it, our hearts melted” (Joshua 2:11).
- “The LORD your God, He is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath” (Joshua 2:11).

Wow, right? I am moved to tears over Rahab’s beautiful confession of heartfelt belief: “The LORD your God, He is God in the heavens and on the earth beneath.”

## FEARLESS FAITH IN ACTION

When Rahab chose to believe, everything changed! Rahab’s

transformation was immediately displayed through her concern for others. First, she fearlessly hid the spies. And I don't want you to miss the significance of what happened next: Rahab's faith immediately bore fruit in her actions. She selflessly implored the spies to not only save her life, but the lives of her family too.

James 2:25 presents Rahab's example of genuine faith in action: "In the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?"

Rahab's heart to protect and her fearless resolve to hide the spies reminds me of the faith-in-action story of Corrie ten Boom. During Hitler's horrific reign of terror, Corrie's family heroically hid Jews in their home. The courage God gave to the ten Boom family, to put themselves in danger while hiding helpless Jews, is astounding. When the ten Booms were arrested, Corrie and her sister Betsie endured horrific brutality at the hands of the Nazis. But even during their imprisonment in a concentration camp, Corrie and Betsie fearlessly proclaimed the hope of Christ to countless Jewish prisoners. Many women surrendered their lives to Jesus right before their deaths in the gas chambers.

This type of courage is born out of a deep faith and love for God. Consider this inspirational quote from Corrie ten Boom: "You may never know that Jesus is all you have until Jesus is all you need."<sup>4</sup>

Rahab's longing for God to also save her family is a sweet expression of her changed heart.

Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that, as I have dealt kindly with you, you will also deal kindly with my father's house, and give me a sure sign that you will save alive my father and mother, my brothers and sisters and all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death (Joshua 2:12-13).

Oh, how my heart wants to burst for joy over this one woman's

saving faith displayed in her longing to rescue others! Rahab's story reveals how one who is forgiven much loves deeply. Which reminds me of another woman redeemed from her shameful past.

Remember the prostitute who anointed Jesus' feet with her thankful tears? When Jesus removed her shame, she couldn't help but fall at His feet—in front of judgmental stares from holier-than-thou men who knew of her sensuous reputation. Knowing their thoughts, Jesus proclaimed, “Her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little loves little” (Luke 7:47).

## THE SHAME GAME

Satan has a way of guiltting us with shame over our past. Can I get a witness? And he can always find religious zealots who are willing to cast condemning stones. But don't be shamed into oblivion, my friend. Down through history, God has used once-wayward women in amazing ways. Have you notice how He never removed the word *harlot* from Rahab's name in Scripture? At first glance, it seems unforgiving to saddle her with this title of indignity. But God's intent was not to shame her. Rather, He wanted to remind Rahab, and everyone she would encounter, of the miraculously transformed life she found on the day she believed in Jehovah.

Bathsheba is another woman listed in Jesus' genealogy in Matthew 1. But rather than give her name, verse 6 says, “David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah.”

Ouch, right? If you don't know about David and Bathsheba's adulterous affair, look it up in 2 Samuel 11–12. But don't miss this point: After David and Bathsheba repented, *God chose her* to be the mother of the next king of Israel. Through confession, Bathsheba had become a vessel of honor ready for the Master's use. When a person repents, God cleanses even the vilest of sins. And He shows the extent of His forgiveness by using redeemed people in amazing ways. Sometimes,

God is most glorified in the recollection of who we would be without His saving grace.

So, take your cue from Rahab and Bathsheba. When Satan tries to humiliate you into obscurity, remember that God's life-transforming grace has washed you whiter than snow.

## ANOTHER SHADY LADY

Remember the woman at the well in John chapter 4? While we can't label her as a mom of the Bible because we don't know if she had any children, her story aligns well with Rahab's because she lived a promiscuous life too. She had already had five different husbands, and now, she had a live-in lover. Her unbecoming reputation caused her so much shame she chose to draw water in the blazing heat at the middle of the day rather than endure the judgmental glances of the women who drew water at a more comfortable morning hour.

On what appeared to be an ordinary day, this woman came upon the Man who would change her life forever. This was a rescue mission by none other than the Son of God Himself. Jesus told the disciples, "He *needed* to pass through Samaria" (John 4:4 NKJV, emphasis added).

There's a lot of history behind why the Jews *never* walked the shorter route through Samaria. But for our purpose here, suffice it to say the Jews held deep prejudices against the half-breed Samaritans. However, none of this mattered to Jesus. Even before He met her, Jesus knew this woman. He saw the depth of her need. And He had been waiting for the right time to meet her—when her heart was ready to meet Him.

Jesus *needed* to go through Samaria because He needed to encounter the Samaritan woman so He could rescue her from her life of sin and shame. Consider this for a moment: Out of necessity, Jesus sought her out—the same way He sought out you and me. The same way He searches for other lost souls today. Can you recall the time you

met the Lord? Never lose the awe you have for your salvation—when your ordinary life became extraordinarily transformed because none other than the King of kings and Lord of lords came to find you.

If you haven't yet read the biblical account about Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman, it is in John chapter 4. Take time to read it. You'll be amazed! And here's the part of her story that I want to call your attention to: As soon as the Samaritan woman believed, her faith was made evident by her actions—similar to Rahab's first instinct to rescue her family. The Samaritan woman rushed to tell *everyone* she had met the Christ! "The woman then left her water-pot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, 'Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?'" (John 4:28-29 NKJV).

What fearless faith on the part of this new Samaritan believer! She was astounded that Jesus knew everything about her sordid past—yet He loved her *anyway*. He came looking for her *anyway*. He saved her *anyway*!

Once ashamed to mingle with those of higher moral character, this woman fearlessly proclaimed, to anyone who would listen, the saving grace she had found. Just like Rahab, her first instinct was to invite others to know the hope she had discovered by believing in the one true God.

Oh, how wonderful. Oh, how marvelous! In Christ there is hope, purpose, and peace. Old things are gone. All things become new. Isaiah 1:18 describes our sanctification in this way: "Come now; let us reason together," says the LORD: "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

## SEND ME

As in the stories of the Samaritan woman and Rahab, Jesus still *needs* to go rescue lost souls. The Lord is asking, "Whom shall I send,

and who will go for Us?” Will you have a fearless passion that says, “Here am I! Send me” (see Isaiah 6:8)?

Sometimes it’s uncomfortable to go where Jesus sends you. I’ve shared the gospel with homeless people in downtown San Francisco. I’ve been hugged by a woman with lice. And I’ve sat in a parking lot with an upstanding woman who needed Christ. And you know who has watched me in those times? My children. And my grandchildren. The best way to teach your kids to fearlessly share their faith is for them to witness you doing so. Scary? Yes, I know. You’re not sure what to say? I get it. I am not asking you to pull yourself up by your bootstraps and force yourself to tell people about Jesus. On the contrary, Philippians 2:13 gives this assurance: “It is God who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”

We know God’s good pleasure is to draw sinners to Christ through our faithful witness, but in your own strength, this may feel burdensome. If Jesus promised His yoke is easy and His burden is light, then how do you become someone who fearlessly shares your faith? Ask God to give you the desire. And ask Him to help you.

I remember the day I was honest with God about my fear of sharing my faith. I recall telling Him, “Lord I’m willing, but I need You to do this through me. I’ll make myself available if You open my eyes. Help me see the people You are drawing to Christ. I’m scared, but I’m asking you to make me fearless.”

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Can I ask you to consider asking God to help you fearlessly open your mouth when He gives you opportunities to give an answer for the hope that lies within you?

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Can I ask you to consider asking God to help you fearlessly open your mouth when He gives you opportunities to give an answer for the hope that lies within you (1 Peter 3:15)? Don’t worry about what you should say. Just tell of how you came to Christ. Your redemption

story holds much power. Revelation 12:11 says, “They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony” (NKJV).

If God opens the door, He can open your mouth. Be encouraged by Jesus’ words: “Do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say” (Luke 12:11-12).

## THE GOSPEL AND *LA BAMBA*?

What about when God sends you to someone you’re close to? For some reason, those assignments feel more intimidating, right? For example, consider what happened with my mother. After a heart surgery went terribly wrong, her health rapidly declined. I went to see her as often as I could.

When I visited my mother, I asked God to open opportunities to share my faith. However, during her time of convalescence, she became preoccupied with repeatedly watching the movie *La Bamba*. A little back story here: My mom grew up in Southern California, where, as a teen, she was captivated by the Hollywood glam life. One of her music idols was Ritchie Valens, who was famous for performing her favorite songs, “La Bamba” and “Oh Donna.” In 1959, Valens, along with the Big Bopper and Buddy Holly, died together in a plane crash. For some reason, in my mom’s fragile state, she became obsessed with the story of their deaths. I think her mind was trying to make sense of life and death while pondering their tragic story.

So, how does a daughter work in the hope of the gospel while the soundtrack for the movie *La Bamba* is playing? I’m laughing now as I look back on what happened, but it was no laughing matter at the time, when I was longing for my mother to surrender her life to Christ before passing away.

One ordinary day, I felt an urgency to visit my mom. I found her crying over all she had lost since her surgery. Her mobility was gone,



her beauty had faded, and her loneliness was unbearable. Observing her vulnerability, I prayed for wisdom. I said, “Mom, I am so sorry you’ve lost everything dear to you. But you need to know that if you die in your sin, you will lose so much more. Jesus says, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me’” (John 14:6).

I continued, “Momma, I know you raised us in church. But I am concerned you don’t really know Jesus. The Bible warns how, in that day, many will say to Him, ‘Lord, Lord.’ But Jesus will respond, ‘Depart from Me. I never knew you’” (see Matthew 7:21-23).

“Mom, I don’t want you to hear those words. I don’t want you to die in your sin.”

My mom stopped crying, looked into my eyes, and asked, “Rhonda, what do you want me to do?”

I replied, “Mom, I think you know what you need to do. How about we pray and you just talk to God?” (In her vulnerable state, I was careful and did not want to put words into her mouth that she didn’t really mean. She had attended church for years, so I knew she was aware of how a person is saved.)

And then it happened! My mom prayed the sweetest, most sincerely heartbroken prayer of repentance I’ve ever heard. She said, “Oh, God. Please forgive me. I’m so ashamed. I’m so ashamed. Please forgive me. I want to be Your child.”

Are you crying? I’m crying as I write these words now.

Please understand: I had not pointed out anything shameful from my mom’s life. And to be honest, I didn’t think my mother was ever ashamed of any of her past choices. Yet the Spirit had broken her heart over her sin while gently drawing her to true repentance and genuine salvation.

Yes, I *needed* to go see my mom that day. Just like Jesus *needed* to go through Samaria to save the woman at the well. And like God *needed* to send those spies to Rahab’s house. In the same way, we are

Christ's ambassadors. Jesus *needs* you and me to interact with those who are around us.

I've told my mom's story hundreds of times. I never lose my awe for what God did. But do you know who I love sharing her story with most? My kids. And their kids. And if I am around long enough, I'll tell her story to my grandkids' kids! This is one tale that has become my mother's legacy and I'm beyond excited to tell it again and again!

If you want to raise your children to fearlessly share their faith, let it begin with you. Let them see you sharing the gospel at the grocery store or at the park. Tell your kids that when God sends you to others, you share of His excellent mercy. When you have the opportunity to plant a seed in someone's life, unfold with excitement the story to your children or grandchildren about how you partnered with God to spread the hope of salvation. Beg God to give you opportunities to meet those whose hearts, like Rahab's, He is already beckoning to Himself. And plead with the Lord to put into your children's hearts a burning desire to tell their friends about Jesus too.

## BACK TO RAHAB

Before leaving Rahab's house, the spies promised that when Israel came up against Jericho, they would keep her and anyone in her home safe. They instructed her to hang a scarlet rope from the very window where she would secretly let them down. This red cord would be a sign of protection over Rahab's household. This reminds me of the blood the Jews painted over their doorposts on the very first Passover in Egypt. The blood kept safe all who dwelled inside, signaling to the angel of death that he was to pass over their home.

Of course, the color scarlet reminds us of Jesus' precious blood spilled for our redemption. His blood saves us from judgment. You and I are saved when we've been washed in the blood of the Lamb. Oh, how glorious!

What happened next is fascinating.<sup>5</sup> God told Joshua to have the

Israelites silently march around Jericho once a day for six days. On the seventh day, the people were to march seven times around Jericho, then shout aloud while the priests blew their horns.

For six days in a row, the Israelites marched in utter silence. Imagine how eerie this must have been for Jericho's inhabitants. They remained hidden within their walls, hearing only the stomps of thousands of feet marching around their city. How terrifying!

I wonder if Rahab had to reassure her family and say, "Don't worry. We will be safe. They promised."

On the seventh day, the people of Israel marched seven times around the wall. And then, with their mighty shouts and the blaring of trumpets, the city walls collapsed into rubble—except the corner of the wall, where Rahab's home stood safely intact. Incredible!

If Rahab's family had questioned her loyalty to the God of Israel, I imagine this miraculous intervention may have made them believers.

## **RAHAB'S LEGACY**

My favorite part of Rahab's story is her legacy. I wish the Bible told us more about the love story between Rahab and Salmon, but we're simply informed that in the lineage of Jesus, Salmon was the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab. Boaz later married the Moabite, Ruth, whom we'll talk about later. But this is the incredible part I don't want you to miss: Boaz was the father of Jesse, who was the father of King David. Incredibly, the Lord wove into the family lineage of Messiah this Canaanite woman who had a sordid past!

In the Hebrew genealogies in the Bible, women usually aren't listed. But Rahab was included. What's more, Rahab was celebrated as a fearless hero of the faith: "By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace" (Hebrews 11:31 NKJV).

Rahab's beautiful legacy shows how God pursues even the vilest of sinners. He goes to great lengths to make His name known to the

lost. And God proves His profound love by sending His Son to save us: “God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

No matter how shameful your past, or mine, let’s be inspired by Rahab’s story. Like Rahab, the Samaritan woman, and the prostitute who washed Jesus’ feet, fearless faith in Christ cleanses all sin and shame. And when you turn to Him in fearless faith, your life will reflect God’s glory, shining forth the hope of the gospel to people who desperately need to see that your faith is real—beginning with your own children.

## LIFE LESSONS

What is your biggest takeaway from Rahab’s story?

Write out and ponder 2 Corinthians 5:20. What does an ambassador for Christ do?

First Peter 3:15 says we should always be prepared “to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.” How will you prepare yourself to share your faith?

Spend time thanking God for sending someone to tell you about Christ. And ask Him to give you the courage to pray, “Send me.”

**To watch Rhonda teach on this chapter,  
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<https://www.rhondastoppe.com/moms-of-the-bible-book/>

