

“Rahab and the Spies”—a skit from Joshua 1-2

by Beth Steward

Narrator: The time had come for the Israelites to enter the Promised Land. But first, they had to drive out the inhabitants of the land. Joshua was the leader of Israel after Moses died, and he had a special assignment for two men.

Joshua (to the spies): You must go to the city of Jericho and bring a report back to me. How big is the city? Is it well guarded? Do they have a strong army? We must know so we can be prepared for battle with them!

Narrator: The two spies entered the city of Jericho and came to the home of a woman named Rahab. One of the kings’ servants approached him with news of the Israelites.

Servant: Look! Some of the Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land! They are staying at Rahab’s house.

King: Go to the house of Rahab and give her this message: “Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, because they have come to spy out the whole land.”

Rahab (to the spies): Quick, go up to my roof and hide there under the pile of stalks of flax I have laid out.

Servant: (Knocks on Rahab’s door.) Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, because they have come to spy out the whole land.

Rahab: Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from. At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, the men left. I don’t know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them.

Narrator: The king’s men set out in pursuit of the spies, and as soon as they had left the city, the gate was shut.

Spy 1 (to Rahab): Why did you help us?

Rahab: I know that the Lord has given this land to you and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. We have heard how the Lord dried up the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt. The Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below. Now, please promise me that you will show kindness to my family because I have been kind to you. I know that your people will attack the city of Jericho, so give me a sign that you will save our lives.

Spy 2: Our lives for your lives!

Spy 1: If you don’t tell what we are doing, we will treat you kindly and faithfully when the Lord gives us the land.

Rahab: Thank you! Now, I will let you down from my window with a rope. Go into the hills and start there for three days. The king's men will not find you there. After three days, return to your people.

Spy 2: In order for us to keep our promise to protect your family you must tie this red rope in your window. When our people enter this land we will see the rope and will keep your family safe.

Spy 1: You must bring your whole family into your house. If anyone is found outside the house, he won't be safe. And if you tell anyone what we are doing, we will be released from our promise.

Rahab: Agreed. Let it be as you say.

Narrator: Rahab's house was built into the outer wall of the city. She let the spies down from her window and they safely escaped into the hills. The king's men searched without finding them, and the spies returned to Joshua.

Joshua: What did you discover about the city of Jericho?

Spy 2: We met a woman named Rahab who believes that our God is the one true God! She hid us from the king's servants and made us promise to rescue her family when we enter Jericho.

Spy 1: The people in the city have heard of the mighty acts of our God and now they are terrified.

Spy 2: The Lord has surely given the whole land into our hands; all the people are melting in fear because of us!