

James 2:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?

Analysis

Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? Likewise Rahab the harlot (pornē, πόρνη) was justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way. Gentile, female, marginalized—yet justified by faith demonstrated in courageous action. Rahab shows that genuine faith crosses social barriers.

Reformed theology celebrates that God justifies sinners who trust Him, regardless of past, and that such trust manifests in costly allegiance to God's people.

Historical Context

Rahab (Joshua 2) risked her life to protect Israel's spies. Jews revered her as a proselyte; James highlights her as a model for diaspora believers facing pressure to betray the church. Hebrews 11:31 similarly commends her faith.",

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does Rahab's example challenge social prejudices in the church?
2. Where might God be calling you to risk for His people?
3. How can your hospitality demonstrate faith?

Interlinear Text

ὁμοίως δὲ καὶ Ῥαβάβ ἡ πόρνη οὐκ ἐξ ἔργων
Likewise G1161 also Rahab G3588 the harlot not by works
G3668 G2532 G4460 G4204 G3756 G1537 G2041

ἐδικαιώθη ὑποδεξαμένη τοὺς ἀγγέλους καὶ ἐτέρα
justified when she had received G3588 the messengers also another
G1344 G5264 G32 G2532 G2087

όδῳ ἐκβαλοῦσα
way had sent them out
G3598 G1544

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 11:31 (Parallel theme): By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.

Joshua 2:15 (Parallel theme): 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.

Joshua 2:4 (Parallel theme): 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:

Joshua 2:1 (Parallel theme): 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.

Joshua 6:17 (Parallel theme): And the city shall be accursed, even it, and all that are therein, to the LORD: only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all that are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent.

Matthew 1:5 (Parallel theme): And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse;

Matthew 21:31 (Parallel theme): Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you.

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