

神偉大的工作Mighty Acts of God (Joshua 2:1-14) Rahab and the spies

2 於是，嫩的兒子約書亞從什亭祕密地差派兩個探子，對他們說：“你們去窺探那地，尤其是耶利哥。”二人去了，來到一個名叫喇合的妓女家中，就在那裡住宿。**2** 有人向耶利哥王報告：“今夜從以色列人那裡有人進來，要窺探這地。”**3** 耶利哥王派人到喇合那裡，說：“把那些來到你這裡，進了你家中的人帶出來，因為他們來是要窺探全地的。”**4** 但那女人已把那兩個人藏起來，還這樣回答王：“不錯，那些人到過我這裡來，但是，我不知道他們是從哪裡來的。**5** 天黑、城門快要關的時候，那些人出去了；我不知道他們到哪裡去。你們快去追趕，必可以追上他們。”**6** 其實她領他們上了屋頂，把他們藏在堆放在屋頂的麻楷裡面。**7** 那些人就沿著往約旦河的路上追趕他們，直到渡口；追趕的人一出城，城門就關上了。

8 兩個探子還沒有躺下睡覺，那女人就上屋頂到他們那裡去，⁹對他們二人說：“我知道耶和華已經把這地賜給你們了，你們使我們十分害怕，這地所有的居民都在你們面前膽戰心驚。¹⁰因為我們聽見你們從埃及出來的時候，耶和華怎樣使紅海的水在你們面前乾了，以及你們怎樣對待約旦河東亞摩利人的兩個王西宏和噩，把他們完全消滅。¹¹我們聽見了，就都心裡驚怕；沒有一人再有勇氣在你們面前站立；因為耶和華你們的神是天上、也是地上的神。¹²現在求你們指著耶和華向我起誓：我既然恩待了你們，你們也要恩待我的父家，並且給我一個確實的憑據，¹³放過我的父母、兄弟姊妹和他們所有的一切，救我們的命不致死亡。”¹⁴兩個探子就對她說：“如果你不洩漏我們這次行動，我們願以性命作你們的保證；耶和華把這地賜給我們的時候，我們必定以慈愛和誠實待你們。”

Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies from Shittim. “Go, look over the land,” he said, “especially Jericho.” So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there.

² The king of Jericho was told, “Look, some of the Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land.”³ So the king of Jericho sent this message to Rahab: “Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, because they have come to spy out the whole land.”⁴ But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. She said, “Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from.”⁵ At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, they left. I don’t know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them.”⁶ (But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under the stalks of flax she had laid out on the roof.)⁷ So the men set out in pursuit of the spies on the road that leads to the fords of the Jordan, and as soon as the pursuers had gone out, the gate was shut.

⁸ Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up on the roof ⁹ and said to them, **“I know that the LORD has given you this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. ¹⁰ We have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed. ¹¹ When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone’s courage failed because of you, for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.**

¹² **“Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign ¹³ that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them—and that you will save us from death.”** ¹⁴ **“Our lives for your lives!”** the men assured her. **“If you don’t tell what we are doing, we will treat you kindly and faithfully when the LORD gives us the land.”**

喇合的故事 -- 人不倚靠其他事物，而單單信靠、敬畏永活的真神時，才能得著救恩。

Six special ingredients:

1、知道罪惡Sight of sin : Prodigal's son, "he came to himself"(Lk 15:17) He saw himself a sinner—and nothing but a sinner. Before a man can come to *Christ*—he must first come to *himself*. A man must first recognize and consider what his sin is, and know the plague of his heart—before he can be duly humbled for it. The eye is made both for *seeing* and *weeping*. Sin must first be *seen*—before it can be *wept* for. Hence I infer that where there is no sight of sin—there can be no repentance.

喇合知道自己污穢。耶利哥百姓知道神保守以色列40年、知道神利害、卻不接待探子、也不歡迎他們的神。

2、為罪憂傷Sorrow for sin : "I'll be sorry for my sin (Ps. 38:18)

(1) To make Christ precious

(2) To drive out sin

(3) To make way for solid comfort

3、認罪悔改 Confession of sin:

Sorrow is such a vehement passion that it will have vent. It vents itself at the eyes by weeping and at the tongue by confession: 'The children of Israel stood and confessed their sins (Neh. 9.2)... will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence' (Hos. 5.15); it is a metaphor alluding to a mother who, when she is angry, goes away from the child and hides her face till the child acknowledges its fault and begs pardon. Gregory Nazianzen¹ calls confession 'a salve for a wounded soul.' Confession is self-accusing.

4、以罪為恥Shame for sin：

- 4.1 罪咎難以洗脫 every sin makes us guilty、
- 4.2 忘恩負義 in every sin, there is much unthankfulness、
- 4.3 赤裸的無地自容 made us naked、
- 4.4 令主耶穌受羞辱 put Christ to shame、
- 4.5 受到魔鬼撒旦的唆擺 we commit are by the special instigation of the devil—and should not this cause shame?、
- 4.6 像手抱巫婆的魔杯豪飲 it turns men into beasts、
- 4.7 愚妄至極 In every sin there is folly、
- 4.8 比異教邪術更恐怖 make us blush、
- 4.9 比鬼更可怕的下場 make us blush, it is far worse that the sins of heaven

5、憎恨罪惡Hatred for sin：

5.1 Firstly, there is a hatred or loathing of ABOMINATIONS

5.2 Secondly, there is a hatred of ENMITY. Set heart against sin; true hatred is universal; against in all forms; it's implacable; real hatred also oppose sin in ourselves.

- (1) Look upon the origin of sin, from whence it comes.
- (2) Look upon sin in its nature, and it will appear very hateful.
- (3) Look upon sin in its comparison, and it appears ghastly.
- (4) Look upon sin in the CONSEQUENCE, and it will appear hateful.

6、離開罪惡Turning from sin :

1. It must be a turning from sin with the HEART.
2. It must be a turning from ALL sin.
3. It must be a turning from sin upon a SPIRITUAL ground.
4. It must be such a turning *from* sin—and turning *unto* God.
5. True turning from sin is such a turn—as has no return.