

Rahab: A Person of Peace

Using the tools Jesus gave us to engage a community and plant churches.

Joshua 2 and Luke 10

After 40 years of desert wandering the Israelites now stand on the banks of the Jordan ready to take the land they had been promised many centuries earlier.

Read Luke 10:1-7

- What did Jesus say about the harvest?

The workers it would seem are the ones whom will enable the harvest to be taken off. They are called in this passage a person of peace. They are actually a principal means of reaching a sub- culture, a tribe, a strata of society or a town.

Read Joshua 2

Rahab is a very important woman although her past was very shadowy! She became King David's great great grandmother , was in the line of Judah through which Jesus came and was also quoted twice in the NT as a woman of great practical faith.

Yet, she also illustrates the person of peace perfectly that Jesus spoke about.

The clarity of my understanding of this person of peace was greatly enhanced by a church planting conference run by David Watson that we attended in 2016 in Melbourne whom I acknowledge as opening my eyes to the reality of this principle. Here I now apply it to Rahab as she was the first person the Israelites encountered in the new land.

How does Rahab fulfill the person of peace principles?

Principle 1 (Joshua 2:1) The POP dwells in enemy territory.

- You won't find a person of peace as described in Luke 10 at a prayer meeting or in the church.
- Rahab was a "nasty" Canaanite
- It takes courage to look for a local who can help us take the Land
- Our spiritual land we need to take is held captive by the prince of darkness
- We bring the light of Christ within our hearts and this attracts a person of peace like a moth is drawn to the light.

Principle 2 (Joshua 2:1) The POP may be very surprising!

- Rahab was a prostitute which God expressly forbids
- Could they even associate with someone who has such a lifestyle?
- She was the exact person though God had prepared to be the doorway into the city!
- We must not presume we know the type of person God has chosen.

Principle 3 (Joshua 2:2-7) The POP will bring protection from danger

Read Joshua 2:2-7

- What did the king do when he discovered some spies were in the land?
- How does Rahab respond?
- Christians in many contexts arouse suspicion and a fear response develops
- This can often be very dangerous one way or another
- The POP then functions as your protector as they are themselves trusted
- They cover us with the flax of their warmth and acceptance in a way that is culturally helpful

Principle 4 (Joshua 2: 8-10) The POP has been prepared by God

- This is really the most important principle
- It is not our job to “make someone” a person of peace
- It is primarily the work of the Great General who loves the strategy of the POP
- *Read Joshua 2:8-10.* How did God prepare her heart?
- We do not have to start from scratch if we believe that God prepares a POP for a group he wants us to reach.
- How can that change our approach and thinking?

Principle 5 (Joshua 2:11) The POP is a spiritually aware person

Read Joshua 2: 11

- How would you describe Rahab’s concept of God?
- Do you think she has come some distance in her spiritual journey?
- Given her profession this is a deep work of God and shows how God loves to take the least likely person and use them for his glory
- A POP will have more than an intellectual interest, they will have a true spiritual hunger though this may not always be expressed in a friendly manner at first as they may well be testing you out initially.

Principle 6 (Joshua 2: 12-13) The POP has a heart beyond themselves

- Who was Rahab worried about?
- How serious was she about the others?
- A POP will want to share all you are sharing with them in order to also see their family and friends saved as well
- Our calling then is to:
 - Instigate spiritual discussions (not churchy ones) that are
 - Backed up by spiritual lifestyles that are set on fire by
 - Intercessory prayer that
 - Attracts a POP like a magnet therefore pulling us to
 - Leave our safe environment and going to where they are.

Principle 7 (Luke 10:8-12) The POP helps us to not waste time where God is not leading us

- If the message is not accepted what were the disciples told to do?
- This is all about getting our focus right
- We may have many good unbelieving friends but they may not be a POP
- We retain the friendships but go on searching for a genuine POP
- Knowing about the POP concept helps us to be strategic, obedient and successful.