

# You're Not Wrong

Joshua 2

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## Scripture Reading

*And Joshua the son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." And they went and came into the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab and lodged there. And it was told to the king of Jericho, "Behold, men of Israel have come here tonight to search out the land." Then the king of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying, "Bring out the men who have come to you, who entered your house, for they have come to search out all the land." But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. And she 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." But she had brought them up to the roof and hid them with the stalks of flax that she had laid in order on the roof. So the men pursued after them on the way to the Jordan as far as the fords. And the gate was shut as soon as the pursuers had gone out.*

*Before the men lay down, she came up to them on the roof and said to the men, "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 2:1–11, ESV)*

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## Devotional Reflection

### The Wrong Person in the Wrong Place

Have you ever found yourself somewhere you didn't belong—feeling like the wrong person in the wrong place at the wrong time?

I once found myself at a banquet where I was supposed to receive an award I didn't deserve, from people who didn't even agree with me. I didn't want to be there. I didn't know what to say. So, I prayed one of those desperate, honest prayers: *"Lord, help me sound inspiring but say nothing."*

And God did something I didn't expect. He took my awkward moment and used it to open doors I never could have opened on my own. It was a reminder that even when we feel out of place, God is never out of position.

That's Rahab's story in Joshua 2. By every measure, she was the wrong person—in the wrong profession, in the wrong city, at the wrong time. But God specializes in turning “wrong person, wrong place” into “right person, right time.” Her story reminds us: it's never too late for God to rewrite a life.

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## 1. An Unexpected Champion (Joshua 2:1–11)

Rahab's home was likely an inn built into the city wall of Jericho—a no-questions-asked kind of place where travelers and spies could come and go unnoticed. But she herself was far from unnoticed by God.

Rahab was a Canaanite prostitute, a woman whose life had probably been shaped by desperation, abuse, and survival. Yet when she heard about Israel's God—the One who parted the Red Sea and conquered mighty kings—something stirred in her heart.

She hadn't seen the miracles with her own eyes. She had only *heard* about them. Still, she believed. And that belief moved her to action. She hid the spies, risking her life for a God she had only heard of but already trusted.

Many people believe *about* God, but Rahab believed *in* Him. She didn't just confess faith; she demonstrated it. Her faith was not theoretical—it was personal, risky, and real.

Faith that doesn't act is just opinion. Genuine faith moves your feet.

**Truth to Hold:** Faith is not what we say we believe—it's what we're willing to risk because we believe.

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## 2. An Unusual Dilemma (Joshua 2:4–7)

Rahab's story gets complicated. When the king's men came looking for the spies, she lied to protect them. It's one of Scripture's great moral dilemmas: was she right or wrong?

Throughout history, people of faith have wrestled with moments like this—when telling the truth could mean betraying the innocent or aiding evil. Think of the Hebrew midwives in Exodus who saved newborn boys from Pharaoh's decree. Or Corrie Ten Boom hiding Jews from the Nazis. Or Brother Andrew smuggling Bibles across communist borders.

So how do we make sense of Rahab's lie?  
Theologians have offered three main views:

1. **She sinned, but God still used her.** Lying violates God's character, but in His grace, God worked through Rahab's faith despite her failure. (Augustine, Calvin, and many Reformed traditions take this view.)
2. **She chose the lesser evil.** In a fallen world, moral choices are sometimes tragically complex. Rahab chose the lesser wrong to prevent a greater evil. (Luther and some Protestant ethicists lean here.)
3. **She was right.** Withholding truth from those bent on evil isn't lying—it's protecting life. Truth isn't owed to those who will use it for wickedness. (Aquinas, Bonhoeffer, and some Catholic and missionary thinkers.)

Wherever you land, the Bible doesn't commend Rahab's lie—it commends her faith. Hebrews 11:31 and James 2:25 both celebrate her courage to act on what she believed.

You may never face such a life-or-death moral dilemma, but every day you face a deeper one: *Whom will I serve?*

Joshua would later put it this way: *"Choose this day whom you will serve... But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."* (Joshua 24:15)

**Truth to Hold:** Faith doesn't require perfection; it requires direction—choosing God daily, even when life feels complicated.

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### 3. An Unrecognizable Identity (Joshua 2:12–24; 6:25; Matthew 1:5)

Because of Rahab's faith, everything about her story changed.

- **From doomed to delivered:** She lived in a city marked for destruction, but her faith spared her and her family.
- **From outsider to insider:** A Canaanite woman became part of God's covenant people.
- **From prostitute to princess in the line of Christ:** Rahab married into Israel, became the mother of Boaz, and is named in Matthew 1:5 as part of Jesus' genealogy.

God delights in rewriting stories. Moses the stutterer became God's spokesman. Gideon the coward became a mighty warrior. David the adulterer became a man after God's own heart. Paul the persecutor became an apostle.

Rahab reminds us that God's grace doesn't just repair—it redefines.

**Truth to Hold:** God delights in transforming wrong people in wrong places into living proof of His redeeming grace.

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## Conclusion

Rahab's story is for anyone who thinks they've gone too far, failed too deeply, or fallen too often. You're not the wrong person in the wrong place—you're the right person for God's redeeming power to be displayed.

When we cry out to Him in desperation, He hears. When we act in faith, He transforms. And when He transforms, He gives us a brand-new identity: *"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has gone, the new has come."* (2 Corinthians 5:17)

It's not too late. It's never too late.

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## Reflection Questions

1. When have you felt like the wrong person in the wrong place? How might God have been positioning you for something greater?
  2. How does Rahab's story challenge your understanding of faith in action?
  3. What moral or spiritual "dilemmas" tempt you to compromise your faith?
  4. Where do you need to let God redefine your identity today?
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## A Prayer for Today

Father, thank You that Your grace reaches even to the most unexpected places. Thank You for seeing me when I feel unseen, for loving me when I feel unworthy, and for redeeming my story for Your glory. Give me faith like Rahab—a faith that acts. Help me choose You daily, even when it's costly or confusing. And remind me that it's never too late for You to transform my life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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## Challenge

Think of one area of your life where you've believed the lie that "it's too late." This week, surrender that area to God. Write out a simple prayer of trust—your own "Rahab moment"—and let God begin rewriting your story.