**Faith to Make Peace**

Sunday School Lesson 8

*Faith in Action*

Hebrews 11:31

6/23/2024

**Introduction & Recap:** Last week, we looked at faith to let God fight the battle. There were four main observations that we considered. First, we can let God fight the battle because we trust the enemy is not as big as it seems. We trust what God has told us about them rather than just what we see. Second, we can let God fight the battle because we trust the promised victory. We know that His children have victory in this world. Third, we can let God fight the battle because we trust the Lord’s method. We must recognize and accept that God often fights through what seems to be unconventional methods to us. Finally, we can let God fight the battle because we trust the Lord’s strength more than our own strength. We know that He can fight any battle easily for us. On the heels of two weeks of lessons on faith and battle, we are going to spend today looking at how our faith leads us to the action of seeking peace. We will look to Rahab as our example for this lesson. While we are soldiers for the Lord Jesus Christ, we are called by our Commander to follow peace with all men. Peacemakers are blessed. We are to live a peaceable life. As believers, we have been sanctified by the God of peace, and we are to let the peace of God rule in our hearts. The word *peace* is used over four hundred times in the Word of God. The challenge for us is to have discernment and faith to know where to seek peace and how to make peace. Many times, Christians do not want to fight the battles that they should fight, and they want to fight the battles that they shouldn’t fight. For example, Christians want to fight needless battles among themselves, but they do not want to fight battles against the world, their own flesh, or false teaching. Let’s consider some truths that will help us to have faith to be a peace maker:

1. **WE CAN MAKE PEACE WITH GOD BECAUSE WE HAVE FAITH THAT HE IS WILLING TO MAKE PEACE WITH US.**

* *Joshua 2:11 And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the Lord your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath. 12 Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the Lord, since I have shewed you kindness, that ye will also shew kindness unto my father's house, and give me a true token: 13 And that ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death. Romans 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:* When it comes to being a peacemaker, the most important peace that we can have is peace with God. Our sin causes us to be separated from the Lord. The members of our flesh war against the Lord and His Word. Despite this, the Lord desires to have peace with man. Many people have trouble believing the Gospel because they struggle to accept that God really desires peace with them. Rahab was a harlot. She’s one of the most unlikely heroes in the Bible. It's incredible to think that she (along with her family) was the only one that God spared. Given her occupation, it probably would have been easier to just assume that God would never have peace with her. There was no hope for her deliverance. Yet, she chose to believe that the Lord would show her peace.

1. **WE CAN MAKE PEACE WITH OTHERS BECAUSE WE HAVE FAITH THAT GOD CAN HELP HIS CHILDREN TO MAKE PEACE WITH US.**

* *Joshua 2:12 Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the Lord, since I have shewed you kindness, that ye will also shew kindness unto my father's house, and give me a true token: 14 And the men answered her, Our life for yours, if ye utter not this our business. And it shall be, when the Lord hath given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with thee. 6:22 But Joshua had said unto the two men that had spied out the country, Go into the harlot's house, and bring out thence the woman, and all that she hath, as ye sware unto her. Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith 1 Corinthians 14:33 For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.* Being a peacemaker is hard because we are not sure how the other person involved is going to respond. Are they going to be interested in peace? Will we have wasted our time if we try for peace, but it is rebuffed by the other person? Rahab had to make a trust not only to trust that God would make peace with her, but she also had to trust that the people would make peace. She was relying upon these spies to follow through on their word. Ultimately, her trust was in the power of the Lord to stir these men to follow through on their message of peace. Likewise, we must trust the same thing in order to be peacemakers today. It requires for us to trust in the working of the Holy Spirit. Peace is one of the fruits of the Spirit. While the Lord’s Spirit will not force someone to exercise peace, we trust in that potential and in the potential for the Lord to guide us and protect us if the other part refuses to seek and make peace.

1. **WE CAN MAKE PEACE IN DIFFICULT SITUATIONS BECAUSE WE HAVE FAITH THAT COMES BY HEARING.**

* *Joshua 2:9 And she said unto the men, I know that the Lord hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you. 10 For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed. 11 And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the Lord your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath. Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.* Consider the difficult situation that Rahab was in. There was a foreign nation outside the city walls. Talk had spread about what the God of that nation had done to their enemies. Yet, the people of Jericho had their own history and their own gods. Who was Rahab going to seek peace with? Would she run to the pagan gods? Rahab tells the spies that she knows that their God is the God in heaven above. Where did she get this faith? It came by hearing. When we are in difficult situations and unsure of how to make peace, we can get wisdom through our faith. Our faith inclines us to listen. First, we listen to God’s Word. Second, we apply the principles of God’s Word as we are confronted with the specifics of our situation.

1. **WE CAN MAKE PEACE EVEN AMONG CONFLICTING PARTIES BECAUSE WE HAVE FAITH THAT THE LORD WILL ALLOW EVIL MEN TO BE CONFOUNDED.**

* *Joshua 2:4 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: 5 And it came to pass about the time of shutting of the gate, when it was dark, that the men went out: whither the men went I wot not: pursue after them quickly; for ye shall overtake them. Psalm 70:2 Let them be ashamed and confounded that seek after my soul: let them be turned backward, and put to confusion, that desire my hurt. 71:13 Let them be confounded and consumed that are adversaries to my soul; let them be covered with reproach and dishonour that seek my hurt.* We cannot condone the actions of Rahab in lying to the men that came to find the spies. We know that the Bible speaks expressly against lying. Yet, Rahab found the mercy and forgiveness of God for this in her act of faith in trying to protect these men. Surely, God could have used any means to deliver them, and her act of deceit was not necessary. Rahab would soon learn the Law of God and come to understand the need for truthfulness, but her story does show us a truth that God is able to confound those who are evil men. Rahab came out of a situation where there were conflicting parties. If she could not have peace with both of them, it was very likely that she would be dead. If we truly seek peace for the glory of God, we may often be able to find peace even among competing interests and conflicting persons. Sometimes, it just simply won’t be possible to have peace with all, but we ought to trust that the Lord can confound evil men.

1. **WE CAN MAKE PEACE IN OUR HOUSEHOLD BECAUSE WE HAVE FAITH THAT GOD WILL USE US TO BE A WITNESS OF THE MESSAGE OF PEACE.**

* *Joshua 2:12 Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the Lord, since I have shewed you kindness, that ye will also shew kindness unto my father's house, and give me a true token: 13 And that ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death. 19 And it shall be, that whosoever shall go out of the doors of thy house into the street, his blood shall be upon his head, and we will be guiltless: and whosoever shall be with thee in the house, his blood shall be on our head, if any hand be upon him. Romans 10:15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!* Rahab’s entire family was saved because of her faith and peacemaking. We do not know what type of relationship Rahab had with her family. Certainly, her irreputable work may have greatly hindered her relationship with them. Either way, we see that Rahab was willing to proclaim the message of peace to her family. She warned them not to leave the house. Her warning was compelling enough that the family listened. The family went into the camp of Israel.