

## Message Notes

HIDEOUT: Letting Ourselves Be Seen

Part 3 – Rescued by Grace

Joshua 2:8-11

July 9/10, 2016

Pastor Mark Riggins

### 1. Rahab's rescue

“Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up on the roof 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. 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. 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’ (Joshua 2:8-11).

- Rahab declared that God is in complete control.

“But Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent as spies to Jericho – and she lives among the Israelites to this day” (Joshua 6:25).

- Rahab became an accepted member of the community.
- Rahab became a prominent figure in Christian history.
- The one thing you can't hide from is God's grace.

God has given you three labels:

Forgiven

Accepted

Loved

### 2. Jesus scorned shame

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him endured the cross, **scorning its shame**, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:1-2).

- Cloud of witnesses

You're most attractive when you're vulnerable.

“Vulnerability feels like weakness but every time we see someone be vulnerable we see courage. Vulnerability is not weakness it is the greatest demonstration of courage.” – Brene Brown

“When we share our own vulnerabilities with our children, we send a powerful message to them that they are not alone in their own weakness.” – Curt Thompson

- Fixing our eyes on Jesus
- Practice

“We will not be rid of shame this side of the new heaven and earth; rather, we grow in our awareness of shame in order to scorn it. But we live in a world that speaks in the language of ‘fixing’ things, of ‘mastering’ problems. Shame would love for us to believe that we could be shame free; because when we find that we are not, we will be tempted once again to feel shame for still being tainted with it.” – Curt Thompson

*Father, I believe your grace is more powerful than my shame. I believe Christ died to pay the penalty of my sin and my shame. You have labeled me FORGIVEN, ACCEPTED, and LOVED. I am forgiven, accepted, and loved. Help me live today accepting who you say I am and extend that grace to others. Amen.*

### **Discussion Questions**

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1. What stood out to you most from this weekend’s message?
2. What about the story of Rahab (going from “prostitute” to “mother of kings”) resonates most with you?
3. This weekend we saw that community (cloud of witnesses) is an essential element to help you battle shame. Have you ever experienced a time when God used someone else’s story to encourage you?
4. *“But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me”* (2 Cor. 12:9). We saw that the most attractive thing about you is your vulnerability. Have you experienced a time when you witnessed someone’s vulnerability as courageous and strong? In contrast, what do you think makes us feel as if we are weak when we are vulnerable?
5. We saw that God labels us: “forgiven”, “accepted”, and “loved.” Which of those three stick out most to you? Which of these is hardest for you to accept at times?
6. What could you do this week to surrender to God’s grace, let yourself be more seen, and resist the cloud of shame? How can this group be praying for you?
7. Pastor Mark offered the prayer above as an encouragement for you to lay down shame, then accept and extend His grace. Pray that prayer as an act of faith to God.