

The Scarlet Blanket of Courage inspired from Joshua 2:8-13 and 6:16-17



The sun was beginning to set over the city as Raymond stood outside an aging apartment building, staring up at the fourth-floor window. His heart pounded. He and his friends, Bobby and Jimmy, had been volunteering with a community outreach ministry that helped families trapped in difficult situations.

Earlier that week, they had met a woman named Mrs. Harris, a single mother who lived in one of the toughest neighborhoods in town. Violence, crime, and fear seemed to surround the area. Yet despite her circumstances, she had begun attending Bible studies and was searching for hope.

One evening, Raymond, Bobby, and Jimmy stopped by her apartment to deliver groceries and pray with her.

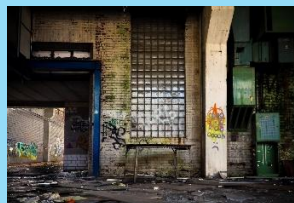
As they sat around the kitchen table, Mrs. Harris spoke softly.

"I know God is doing something," she said. "I've watched God change lives around me, and I've seen people who were broken become whole again."

Raymond nodded. "God is always at work, even when we can't see it."

Mrs. Harris smiled. "That's what gives me hope, and I want my children to have a future."

Her words reminded Raymond of Rahab in Joshua's story, a woman who believed God's power even before seeing the victory.



A few weeks later, trouble erupted in the neighborhood... several gang-related incidents caused panic, and many families feared for their safety... local authorities organized emergency assistance and encouraged residents to relocate temporarily while the situation stabilized.

Raymond, Bobby, and Jimmy immediately began helping families find shelter.

As they prepared transportation, Raymond remembered Mrs. Harris.

"We have to make sure she and her children get out safely," he said.

Bobby agreed. "She trusted God when everything looked impossible."

Jimmy nodded. "Let's go."

They rushed to her apartment building.

When they arrived, Mrs. Harris was waiting in the window. Hanging from the balcony railing was a bright red blanket.

Raymond pointed upward.

"Look at that!"

"The red blanket," Bobby said. "That's our signal."

Mrs. Harris had promised to display it so volunteers could quickly identify her apartment if an evacuation became necessary.

As they climbed the stairs, Raymond smiled.

"That reminds me of Rahab's scarlet cord."

Jimmy grinned. "A sign of faith."

When they reached the apartment, Mrs. Harris greeted them with tears in her eyes.

"I knew you'd come."

Raymond replied, "We gave you our word."

Her children gathered their belongings while Bobby carried bags downstairs.

Before leaving, Mrs. Harris stopped at the doorway.

"Can I tell you something?" she asked.

"Of course," Raymond said.

She looked at the red blanket fluttering outside.

"When I hung that blanket there, I wasn't trusting in the cloth. I was trusting in the God who sends people to help."

Raymond smiled.

"That's exactly what Rahab understood... Her faith wasn't in a rope... It was in God."

The family safely boarded the bus, and soon dozens of residents were transported to secure housing.

That evening, as volunteers and families gathered in a church gymnasium, news arrived that the dangerous situation had been contained, yet no one from the evacuated group had been harmed.

A cheer erupted across the room.

People hugged, prayed, and thanked God.

The pastor stepped forward and said, "Today reminds me of Joshua 6. When God's people shouted, the walls came down, and Rahab and her family were saved because of faith."

Raymond glanced at Bobby and Jimmy.

Bobby smiled. "Sometimes God still brings down walls."

"Not always brick walls," Jimmy added.

"But walls of fear," Raymond said.

The three friends looked across the crowded room... families who had felt hopeless now had peace... fear had been replaced by faith.

Mrs. Harris walked over with her children.

"Thank you," she said.

Raymond shook his head.

"Don't thank us. Thank God."

She smiled.

"I do every day."



As the evening worship began, Raymond reflected on what he had learned. Like Rahab, faith means trusting God before the victory arrives. Like Joshua and Israel, obedience means moving forward even when the outcome seems impossible. And when people place their trust in God, God can tear down the strongest walls and provide salvation, protection, and hope.

And just as the scarlet cord marked a home of faith long ago, the red blanket in Mrs. Harris's window became a modern reminder that God's promises still stand firm for those who trust God.