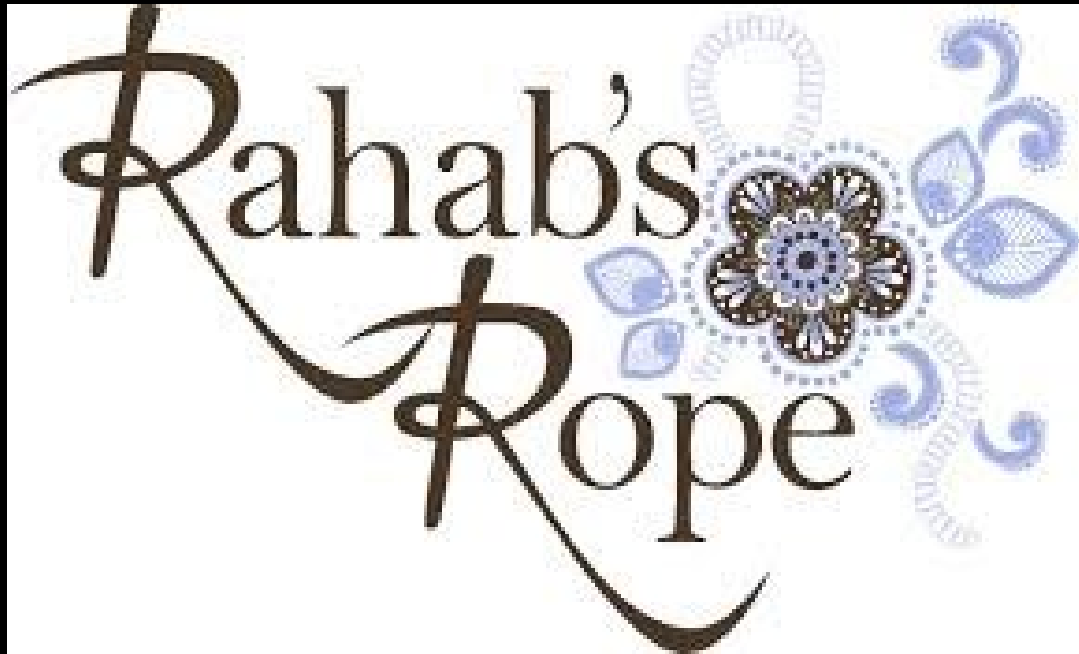


A Trophy of Grace— Rahab





Joshua 2:1–18, 21

¹ 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. ² And it was told to the king of Jericho, “Behold, men of Israel have come here tonight to search out the land.” ³ 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.” ⁴ 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. ⁵ 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.” ⁶ 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. ⁷ 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.

⁸ Before the men lay down, she came up to them on the roof ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ 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. ¹² Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that, as I have dealt kindly with you, you also will deal kindly with my father's house, and give me a sure sign ¹³ that you will save alive my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death." ¹⁴ And the men said to her, "Our life for yours even to death! If you do not tell this business of ours, then when the LORD gives us the land we will deal kindly and faithfully with you."

¹⁵ Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was built into the city wall, so that she lived in the wall. ¹⁶ And she said to them, "Go into the hills, or the pursuers will encounter you, and hide there three days until the pursuers have returned. Then afterward you may go your way." ¹⁷ The men said to her, "We will be guiltless with respect to this oath of yours that you have made us swear. ¹⁸ Behold, when we come into the land, you shall tie this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and you shall gather into your house your father and mother, your brothers, and all your father's household. . . ."

²¹ And she said, "According to your words, so be it." Then she sent them away, and they departed. And she tied the scarlet cord in the window.

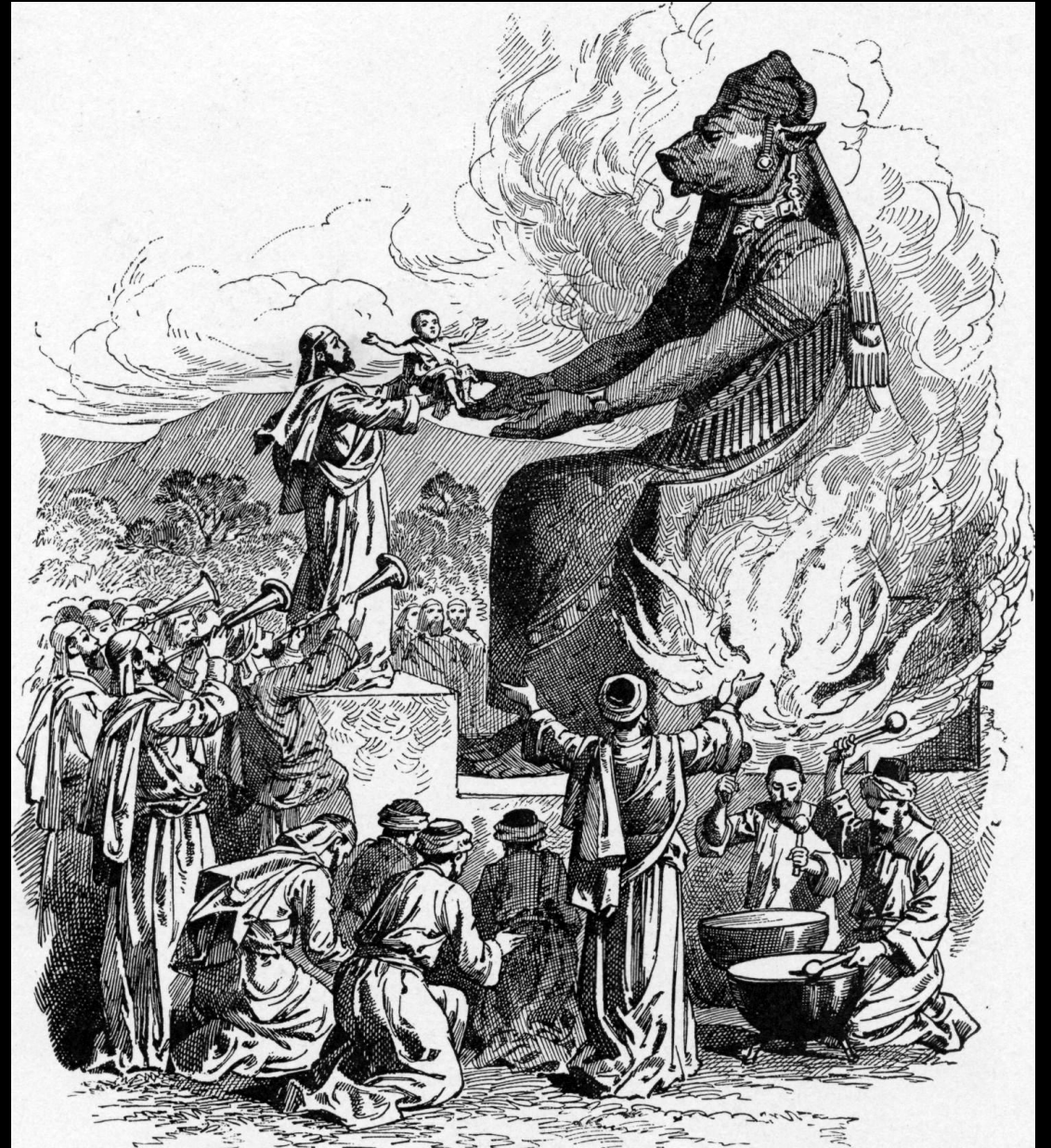


We encounter four kinds of people in the Book of Joshua:

Those who had a relationship with God and walked faithfully with him—people like Joshua and Caleb.



Those who had no relationship with God and have no interest in one—the **Canaanites**.



Those who, like **Achan** and the faithless generation of Israelites, had a relationship with God, but **disobeyed and turned away**.



Then there is **Rahab**, who had no relationship, but turned to God.

God chose a most unlikely woman to become the savior of her family and an ancestor of the savior of the world.



1. Rahab believed God and acted on her faith.

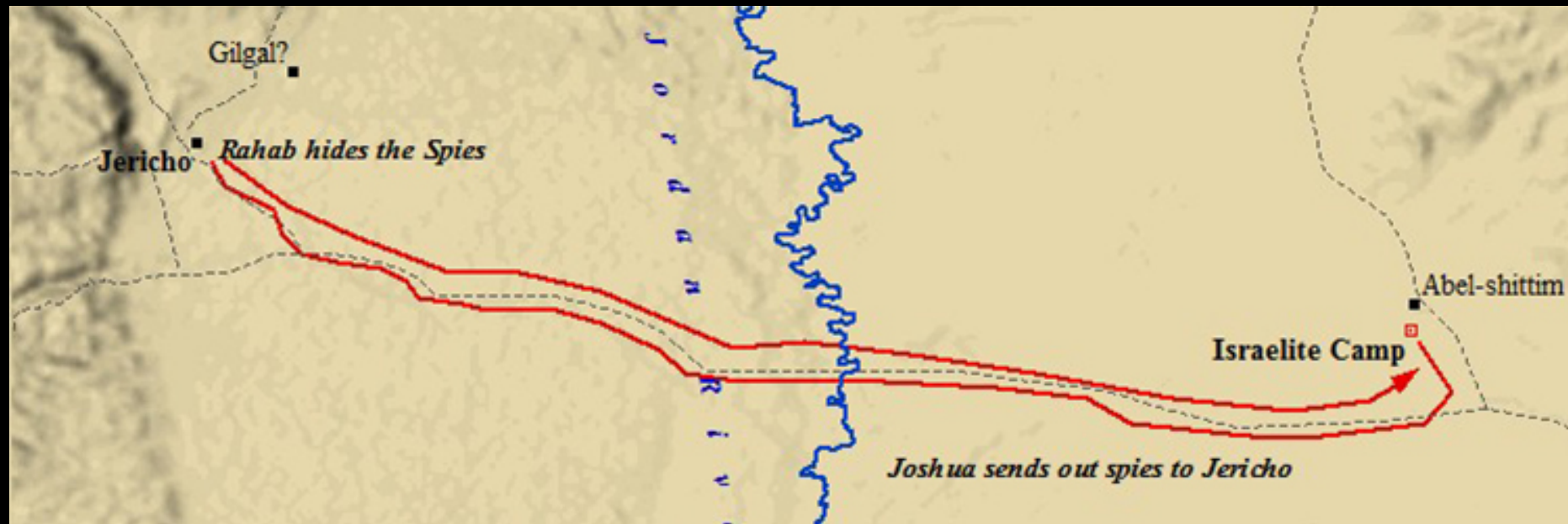
As a prostitute, Rahab's house was probably a sort of *inn or pub* where strangers came and went.

It would have been a logical place for the Israelite spies to stay undercover and to gather information.



With the Israelites encamped just across the Jordan, the entire city of Jericho must have been **on alert**.

Someone detected the spies, followed them to Rahab's house, and quickly returned to report to the king.



When Rahab saw the soldiers approaching her house, she took the spies and **hid them** beneath the **stalks of flax** which had been placed on her flat roof for drying.

After flax stalks were pulled up at harvest time, they were soaked in water for three or four weeks to separate the fibers. Then, after drying in the sun, the flax was made into linen cloth.



Rahab **created a ruse** and sent the king's men off on a wild-
goose chase due east
to the fords of the
Jordan, the most likely
escape route.

Because her house
was built into the wall
of the city, she then let
the men down the wall
by a rope.



Rahab saved the lives of the Israelite spies because she had come to believe in their God.

She came to believe that the God of Israel was **the only true God**.

She believed that this Sovereign God had given the **land of Canaan** to his people Israel,

- that he had miraculously opened the **Red Sea** to bring them out of Egypt,
- that he had enabled them to **destroy** the Amorite kings in the Transjordan and take possession of their land,
- and that he would infallibly accomplish his promises to Israel by the **total subjugation** of the Canaanites.



The New Testament says of Rahab:

Hebrews 11:30-31

³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.



2. God rewarded Rahab's faith.

She and all her family were preserved.

By God's special intervention, her house was **marked by a scarlet cord** that hung from the window.

When the city of Jericho fell to the Israelites, they went to the house, brought out Rahab and all her family, and placed them in safety near the camp of Israel.

When the accursed people of Jericho were slain, she and her family alone were saved.



Rahab was enrolled as one of God's own people.

A Gentile prostitute, member of an accursed nation living in a city under the righteous wrath and judgment of God, she becomes a trophy of God's grace who, in the honor roll of saints in Hebrews 11, is joined with Abraham and Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, and the Patriarchs, with Moses, and all the great heroes of faith.



*She was made the **great-great grandmother** of Israel's greatest king, David, and an ancestor of the Messiah himself!*

Matthew 1:1–6

¹ The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. ⁵ and Salmon [was] the father of **Boaz by Rahab**, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶ and Jesse the father of **David the king**.



Whatever Rahab was before, God saved her and made her his instrument for the **salvation of her whole family**.

Even more, she became part of his chosen line that would ultimately bring into this world the **savior of all mankind**, Jesus Christ.



Rahab's story teaches us that no one is beyond the reach of God's mercy, love, and grace.

1 Corinthians 6:9–11

⁹ Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

¹¹ ***And such were some of you.***

But you were *washed*, you were *sanctified*, you were *justified* in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.



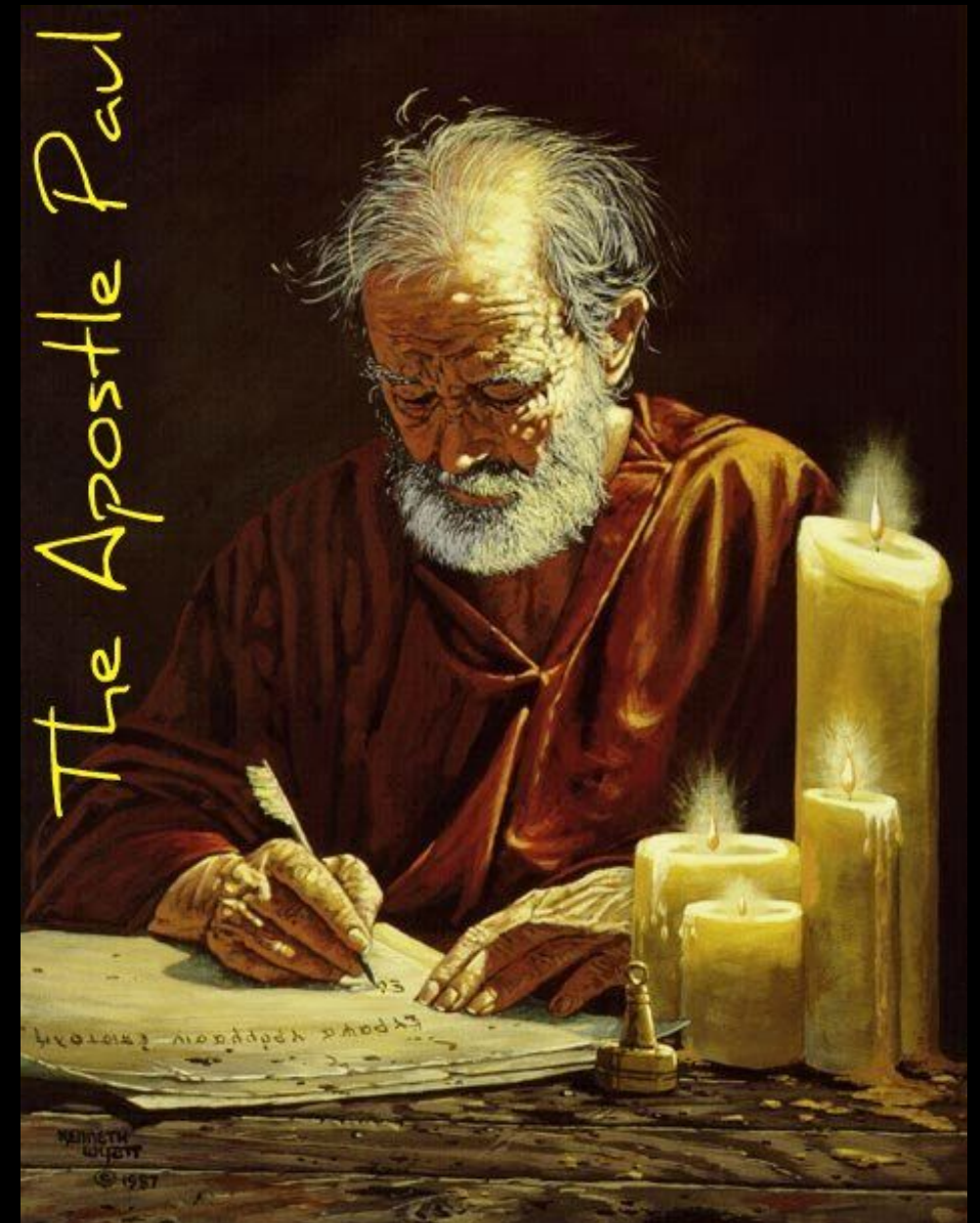
washed
sanctified
justified

1 Corinthians 6:11

Of himself, the apostle Paul said:

1 Timothy 1:15–16

¹⁵ The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.



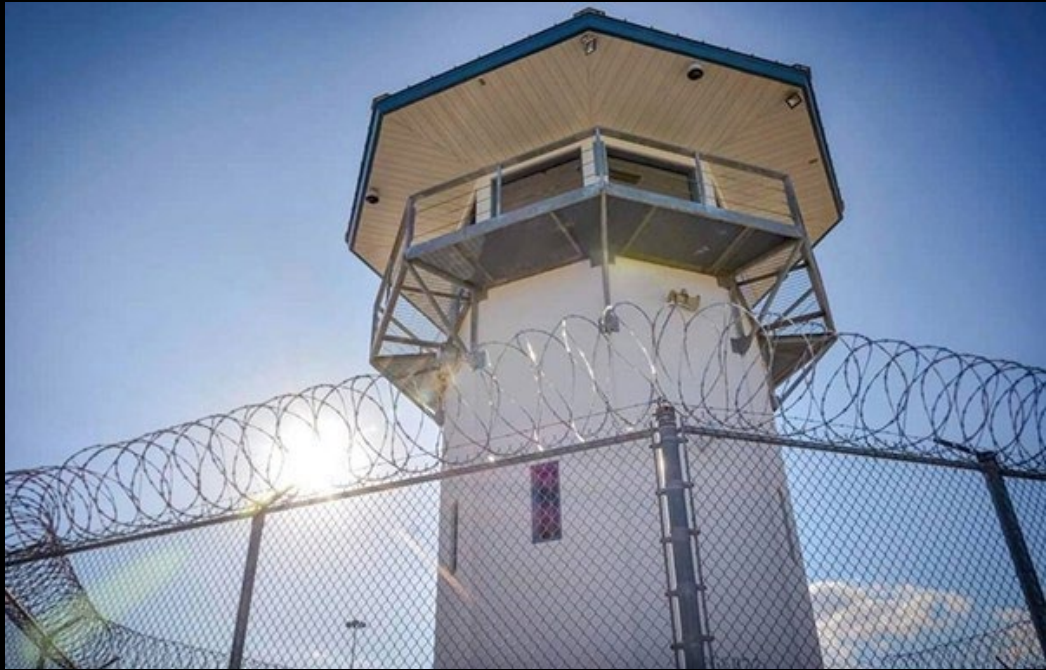
Application

1. There is no person so lost, but they may become a beloved saint. There's a scarlet cord for all of us.

2. God richly rewards those who trust him enough to act on their faith.









Hard Time, Season 1, Episode 5,
"Breaking Point."
Available on Amazon Prime.

U.S. NEWS MAY 22, 2008 / 9:02 PM / UPDATED 12 YEARS AGO

Killer spared from death hours before execution

By Matthew Bigg

3 MIN READ



ATLANTA (Reuters) - The parole board in the U.S. state of Georgia spared a convicted killer from execution hours before he was due to die by lethal injection on Thursday and commuted his sentence to life in prison.



Samuel David Crowe in an undated photo. The parole board in the state of Georgia spared a convicted killer from execution hours before he was due to die by lethal injection on Thursday and commuted his sentence to life in prison. REUTERS/Georgia Department of Corrections/Handout

In March 1988, while a raging cocaine addict, **David Crowe** murdered the store manager at a lumber company where he had worked at the store.

He shot the manager three times with a pistol, then beat him with a crowbar and a can of paint.

Crowe pleaded guilty to armed robbery and murder and was sentenced to death the following year.



Crowe was on death row for almost 20 years because of a moratorium on executions. During that time he kicked his cocaine habit and spent his time behind bars counseling other inmates, teaching some of them to read, and writing to people outside of prison who had drug habits.



On May 22, 2008, a month after the Supreme Court lifted its moratorium on the death penalty, Crowe was **set to be executed** at 7:00 p.m.

At 5:05, as he was eating his last meal and preparing to enter the execution chamber, the Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles **commuted his sentence to life without parole**.



David Crowe believes that he deserved to die for his crimes, but that God miraculously **spared his life**.

He now sees his life in prison as **a mission** that God has entrusted to him, a mission of reaching out to save lost men from the kind of mistakes that he made.

He is in our Truett McConnell Christian Studies degree program to better prepare himself as a chaplain's assistant and peer counselor to other prisoners.

David is just one more person who along the way found the **scarlet cord** that God let down to those who will trust him and be saved.

