



Salmon (was) the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab...

Matthew 1:5

God changes our labels and gives us a new name

Rahab was a prostitute. There, I said it. There's no sugar coating what profession she had chosen to make a living. Rahab's line of work, though, is not the reason she is so famous in Bible history. If you'll remember, she is the one who protected the two spies who came into Jericho to scout out the land promised to God's people. When Israel came into Jericho and destroyed it, Rahab and her family were spared, and Rahab jumped into the line of the Savior as the great grandmother of King David himself. It's amazing to think of both whom God uses to achieve his good purpose and the ways in which he works all things out for the good of those who love him.

We are ending one calendar year and moving into another. What do you regret about this past year? What mistakes did you make or what things didn't go the way you envisioned them? Everyone has these thoughts and memories of ways in which we have failed our God and fallen short of giving him the glory in all things.

No matter who you are and no matter what you've done, God has a plan for you in his kingdom. He changes the labels of your life from "deserving of death" to "recipient of eternity" motivated by nothing more than his love for your soul. He calls you "a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light" (1 Peter 2:9).

Happy New Year knowing that you are dearly loved by God himself. Happy New Year knowing that he loves you dearly always.

Prayer: Lord God Almighty, what a blessing you have been to me in this past year. You have guided me; You have blessed me; You have kept me in your tender care. Watch over me in the new year, O Lord. Keep me close to you and your Word that I might be strengthened in my faith and able to take on the devil and all his schemes. Amen.