

Hebrews 11:23-40 – 30 June 2024

“Faith In Action Part 2 of 2”

Introduction

- *Chap 11-13 finishes the book of Hebrews with our response to receiving the New Covenant in Jesus
- *Chap 11 is the famous Hall of Faith chapter
- *We’re examining, ‘What is true Biblical faith?’ and ‘If we have true Biblical faith what is the result of that in our daily lives?’ **THEY WILL BE ACTION**
- *Last time we’re together we saw the 1st 3 of 6 attributes of true Biblical faith from vss 1-22
 - *The faithful will seek to worship God His way
 - *The faithful will go anywhere God leads
 - *The faithful will make God their priority & legacy

Today, we’ll see 2nd half of 6 attributes of true Biblical faith in the lives of believers in Jesus Christ

- *For each; we’ll ID the person AND their action

#4 – The faithful will identify with God against great obstacles (Vs 23-27)

Read Vs 23

1. What did Moses' parents faith do? Disobeyed the govt when told to allow murder of newborns
 - a. Wasn't 1 decision but 3 months of trouble
 - b. Remember the midwives that also had this faith (Read Exo 1:16-17)
2. Why'd they do it? Feared God more than king
 - a. Making your identity in Jesus, choosing His ways is the fear of the Lord & brings great blessing

Read Vs 24-26

1. What did Moses' faith do?
 - a. Chose to ID w/ God's people not the earthly
 - b. Chose to ID with the earthly weak but spiritually strong
 - c. Chose to ID with the spiritually strong rather than earthly strong
 - d. Chose to accept mistreatment for his ID

2. Why'd he do it?
 - a. He understood that the pleasures of this world's sin is short and passing away (vs 25)
 - b. He understood that in Christ there are far greater rewards coming that are much greater
 - i. Greater in time, intensity, value and glory

Read Vs 27

1. What did Moses' faith do now?
 - a. Gave 100% commitment to his ID in Christ
2. Interesting the God doesn't remember Moses killing the Egyptian – that was a lack of faith
3. Why'd he do it?
 - a. B/c he trusted an unseen King while in this world of visual distractions
4. Moses wouldn't let the pleasures or threats of this world stop him from identifying with another world...the real world

#5 – The faithful will obey God when it doesn't make sense (Vs 28-31)

Read Vs 28

1. What did Moses' faith do here?
 - a. Did & led others in the Passover meal
 - b. Did & led others to apply the lamb's blood
2. Why'd Moses do it?
 - a. He believed an invisible force was about to impact them in a very real physical way
3. To natural mind this would be utterly absurd
 - a. How could blood on a door prevent death?
4. You say, well Moses had nothing to lose by doing this fanciful act
 - a. Remember, he was leading others into this
 - b. He would look like a fool, if it failed

Read Vs 29

1. What did Israel's faith do?
 - a. Trusted and obeyed God in moving in a direction that didn't make sense to go
 - b. No one ever saw a mighty river stand up

2. What was difference between Israel & Egypt?
 - a. They both had courage, but Israel had a reasonable faith that it would work for them
 - b. Reason for courage makes all the difference
 - c. Israel had excellent reasons to believe they could go – B/c God said so

Read Vs 30

1. What did Israel's faith do here?
 - a. Turn to Jos 6:1-5 – can we simply follow God's Word, even when it makes no sense?
 - b. They believed any enemy of God's can be overthrown God's wisdom & strength, not man

Read Vs 31

1. What did Rahab's faith do?
 - a. Believed that Israel and their spies would conquer the unconquerable city
 - b. W/ walls so thick, the chariots raced on top
2. Oh she had evidence that God was moving, but would she have faith to believe the unbelievable?
3. Notice, Rahab was destined to die unless she trusted God in faith – it's still same for us today

#6 – The faithful will turn the tide thru great affliction (Vs 32-40)

Read Vs 32

1. “Time will fail me” b/c there are always people around that are truly serving God in faithful action
 - a. In their day, they responded to God allowing His to use them in turning the tide
2. We could look at these men and say...
 - a. Gedeon, Barak & Jephthah: fearful & hesitant
 - b. Samson & David were lustful for women
 - c. Even Samuel didn't care enough for his kids
3. But God looks at these men and says...
 - a. They are men of faith, who turned the tide in their generation

Read Vs 33-35

1. These are life-changing events & not just for them but for many people around them
 - a. Life of faithful action makes us world-changers
 - b. But we need resilience of faith to endure
 - i. Jephthah was mocked for illegitimate birth
 - ii. David was pressed by the powerful's jealousy
 - c. Faithfully enduring adversity changes things

2. “A better resurrection”
 - a. This ISN’T saying the resurrected life is better than this life b/c of the phrase “so that”
 - b. Some would say this is comparing the resurrection of life & of damnation (John 5:29)
 - c. I believe this is referring to a greater status of resurrected life based on what’s doing in life
 - i. We will all stand at the judgement seat of Christ to receive for our deeds while in our bodies (II Cor 5:10)
 - ii. Our work is put on trial & if it endures, we will receive a reward (I Cor 3:13)
3. So faithful action turns the tide in this world & prepares the way from greater things in life to come

Read Vs 36-38

1. Like vs 35, some chose torture rather than escape to earn further reward, now here we see that some had torturous circumstances thrust upon them
 - a. And this STILL brings a better resurrection
2. This puts the brakes on the prosperity gospel
 - a. II Tim 3:12 – godly will suffer persecution

Read Vs 39-40

1. The promise they didn't receive & the better thing was that of the coming of Messiah Jesus
 - a. The 3rd Promise to Abraham
2. How are past believers made complete b/c of us?
 - a. We're fulfillment of the hope (Jesus) they sought
 - b. The church age is the finishing touches to God's work with humanity

Conclusion

So, are we focused on thinking, speaking and acting about the world to come or this temporary life?

What's God calling you deeper into?

4. **Is He calling you to identify w/ Him against great obstacles today?** Stand out & stand up for Him
5. **Is He calling you to obey something that doesn't make sense?**
6. **Is He calling you to turn the tide at work, with a friend or within your family?**