

Abundant life by Faith

HVFC

March 1, 2026

Jesus is Better Series

Hebrews 11:28-31

Good morning.

I can say with some confidence that next week MAY be our last sermon in chapter 11.

Yet this week as I have been reading the book of Hebrews in my morning devotion so many more things make sense now earlier in the book having the experience of preaching through this chapter.

And even looking forward to chapter 12, the writer doesn't let up, and there will be some challenging sermons from that chapter.

I pray that the messages from the word of God is challenging your Christian walk. Because it is the word of God that equips us to do the work of the ministry. Putting the word in your heart allows you to be ready in season and out of season to give a defense of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. If you hear nothing else this morning, hear that.

Last week we presented Moses in a bit of a different way. The Moses we know leading the Children of Israel, speaking to God on the Mountain, delivering the tablets of the law, sitting in judgment and building the tabernacle, is not the man who fled Egypt at 40. That Moses wrestled with fear and not fitting in.

As we were driving home, Autumn mentioned to me something I missed in the scriptures. She said it is interesting that Moses after 80 years took up the mantle of his parents. Verse 23 says that Moses's parents hid him because they were not afraid of the King's command, and in verse 27 speaking of Moses returning to Egypt says that he returned not fearing the wrath of the King.

This highlights the importance of teaching our kids about our faith and the God we serve. We pass on more than just shared DNA, we pass on habits, strengths, and valuable lessons that will help them succeed later in life.

In life, I believe our greatest fears can be boiled down to three categories.

The fear of the thief, the fear of death, and the fear of destruction.

We experience these in our Body, Soul, and Spirit.

If you will turn with me first to John 10.

I want to come at the passage in Hebrews 11 from a different angle this morning.

There are 4 examples we are going to look at in Hebrews 11, the blood on the door post, crossing the Red Sea, and Jericho's walls coming down, and ending with Rahab's faith.

As I studied these things, they pointed me to an abundant life found only in Jesus.

If you will let's read John 10, starting in verse 7.

John 10:7-11

7 "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

NKJV

Let's pray.

Over the past few months, we have looked what a life lived by faith looks like. Starting from creation, through the early heroes, to the fathers of the faith the writer has highlighted areas he felt was vital.

And as I looked at our passage from Hebrews 11, there were several directions they offered, all of which would be biblical and true and applicable.

Yet one theme stood out for me. It was a theme of hope and excitement.

Faith is a journey of adventure to an abundant life.

In each of our examples today, the followers of God experienced abundant victory, and the others experienced total loss.

And this is the reality for those who are called Children of God by the salvation offered through Jesus Christ.

I want to look at each of these examples from Hebrews 11, starting with the blood on the door post from verse 28.

Hebrews 11:28

By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them.

NKJV

Quickly I want to give the background if you don't know. The story is found in Exodus 12.

The 10th and final plague God sent on Egypt was the angel of death. He was sent with simple instructions, kill any person or animal that was the first born.

I always like to ask because I am a first born, but how many of you are first born?

Every family would have been affected.

We are all affected by death.

Everyone here has experienced death to one degree or another in their life time. Scripture teaches that through the sin of Adam, it is appointed unto man once to die.

And that was the enemy's goal in the Garden of Eden. It was to kill.

Jesus said in John that the enemy comes to kill.

And in the same breath says, I have come that you may have life.

Before Jesus, death reigned over humanity. There was no hope, only death and after that judgement.

This is what the Egyptians experienced, the hopelessness and finality of death.

Psalms 6:5 teaches how death was viewed. It was the end of physical existence, a return to Sheol, the place where the dead gathered to await the final judgment.

Martha speaks of this to Jesus regarding Lazarus.

John 11:24, Martha responds to Jesus promise that Lazarus would rise again, saying I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

There was a finality even deeper than what we feel today.

Christianity has so influenced the world today, that most people believe in life after death.

John 11:25-26

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.

NKJV

Jesus went to the cross after being beaten beyond recognition, and hung on the cross for 6 hours covering the doorpost of the lives of those who believe with the blood of the lamb that protects us from spiritual death.

Jesus won a victory over death, taking the power and the authority it had over our life and gives freedom from the fear and anxiety associated with death.

This truth led Paul to write in 1 Corinthians 15:55.

Where oh death is your victory, where oh death is your sting...

And in 2 Timothy 1:10, Jesus has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel.

The enemy comes to kill, but through Jesus we have life. Just as Moses taught the children of Israel with the sign of the blood on the door, we no longer have to fear death thanks to Jesus' resurrection.

Hebrews continues with the nation leaving Egypt and coming to the Red Sea.

Hebrews 11:29

By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned.

NKJV

After the 10th plague, Pharaoh doesn't just let them go, he commands them to leave. And Moses and the whole congregation plunder the Egyptians and begin marching west, back to the land of promise.

I want to read the account from Exodus 14, so if you want to follow along, please do.

Exodus 14:1-13 from Bible.

Now I know that God is orchestrating these things, but it is to paint a picture for us to see how the enemy works.

The Israelites are between a rock and a hard place.

The Red Sea in front of them and the Armies of Egypt behind them.

We often find ourselves in this place in life.

Situations where there is no way-out, no-good options, and certain defeat.

The enemy seeks to steal our confidence in the promises of God.

And he will take advantage of what life throws at us, specifically when we face difficult situations to being obedient to God.

I find this is an issue I face often.

As both a blessing and a curse, I must have a decent mental understanding of something before I feel confident in rushing off to do said thing.

To give you an example.

In bible college I had a roommate who wanted to get together and start doing roof replacements after classes in San Antonio. He said there was good money to be made, and I knew a little about roofing from some summer work I had done with my dad. But I had not done a complete roof, just small bits and pieces, mostly clean up and tearing off.

I lacked the confidence to push forward and possibly make some good money.

When I got to MT, we needed some money, and my father-in-law asked if I wanted to roof with him, and he would teach me what I didn't know.

After a summer of working, I had a full understanding of the task, and began to take the lead in running the company. I would eventually have enough confidence to take on whole roof replacements and do all the work by myself. I have put on several roofs start to finish with just me, as well as traveling internationally to replace roofs. It was the same story here with a two-year transition, that allowed me to grow into the confidence of taking on the roll as senior pastor.

The enemy, which can include ourselves to a degree, can work to undermine our confidence in what God is asking us because we feel we lack the experience. Remember what God told Moses, go and do it, and that way you know you were supposed to do it.

God gives similar advice to the children of Israel in this situation.

In Exodus 14:15 God says Moses, why do you cry to Me, Tell the children to go forward.

With God, as we are obedient to move forward, we gain confidence as He begins to part the sea before us.

The Israelites wanted to go back, and we often want to retreat when facing impossible odds.

But if I could quote this beloved pipe smoking theologian when he was faced with impossible odd.

His name is Gimli from the Lord of the Rings, return of the king.

They have just won the battle of Gondor, and need to help Frodo get to Mt Doom, Aragon suggest marching to the Black Gate.

Gimli responds:

Certainty of death... Small chance of success... What are we waiting for?

This is what God wants from us when faced with impossible circumstances, a confidence that he will keep his promise despite what we see.

The enemy wants to steal your confidence when you are stuck between the Red Sea and the Egyptians. But if we will press forward into what God is calling us to do, the sea will be opened for us, and when trouble follows, the sea will destroy the army behind.

And then we will be in the promise land, and all will be good, a land of milk and honey... right?

As we pass through the trap of the sea and enter the promise land, we find a heavily fortified city waiting to destroy us.

Hebrews 11:30

By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days.

NKJV

The children of Israel had just crossed the Jordan and set foot in the promise land only to find it wasn't smooth sailing from there. Rather it was going to be a fight.

The enemy hasn't given up yet. He has tried to steal our confidence, death no longer has any power, but he is still intent on destroying your faith in God.

With the Red Sea, it was impossible for them to win, unless God made a way for them to go forward in that moment.

With Jericho, it is different. They are not being pursued from behind. There is no immediate danger, only an obstacle to overcome that is blocking them from their purpose of entering the promise land.

The enemy will play the long game to wear down our faith to a point that it is weak and can be destroyed.

The solution to Jericho was 7 days of obedience that included a process for winning.

All too often in the Christian Faith we expect God to move quickly, we pray and we tell God what we want him to do, and tap our foot in annoyed impatience as we wait for God to get off his lazy bum and address our issues.

Now nobody would say that verbally, but it is how many of us act.

And even more so when God gives us instructions that we feel are foolish.

Here they were told to march around the city 7 days in silence.

In 2 Kings Naaman was told to wash 7 times in the river Jordan.

The test is always obedience. In these times the enemy will be in our ear, this is foolish, you look stupid. You should man up and do it your way.

It was those same words that deceived Eve into seeing the fruit of the tree of Good and Evil as desirable.

Destruction comes from disobedience. Think back in your own life how sin has authored every instance of destruction and death.

God is the one who gives life through Jesus. And that life comes from putting our faith in Jesus alone. Obedience to his word gives us the ability to overcome death, walk through the sea on dry ground, and to see the walls blocking our way fall down. And from our obedience in all these things, it opens the door for salvation to come to the Rahab's of the world.

Rahab heard of what God was doing for Israel, and she put her faith in the God of Israel. And the very first gentile entered the faith and would become part of the lineage of Jesus.

When I opened this message, I shared how Faith is a journey of adventure to an abundant life.

It is hard for us to understand in the midst of trials and tribulations how this will be good for us.

Each day is filled with opportunity to trust in Jesus and be obedient to his word despite the enemies attempt to steal, kill and destroy our faith. Yet each trial equips

us to endure to the end, but even more it is there to help us help others along the way.

Abundant life isn't only about making it to heaven, rather abundant life is being able to help bring as many others with us to the promise land.

Stand with me.