

Hebrews 11.23-31

Faith Requires Choices

READERS tempted Abandon X & Follow Moses > Moses followed X

Chapter 11 > Focus on FAITH of these Heroes who Looked to Jesus

2 Most PROMINENT People in OT – Abraham and Moses

Jesus: “Abraham SAW my Day” & “Moses wrote ABOUT Me”

Want Follow Moses EXAMPLE? > Then you’ll Follow Christ too!

v 23-31 Begins w/ M’s Parent’s Faith / ENDS Faith those Followed Moses

Our Faith is Influenced by those Came Before / Impacts those Come After

1. Child of Faith

Pattern: CHILDREN of Faith are Born when there are FAITHFUL Parents

Parents / even More GRANDparents > Look at Kids / Grandkids

THINK > What TERRIBLE World for our CHILDREN to ENTER

EGYPT > Pharaoh’s EDICT: Every Male Child > Post Birth Abortion

PROMISE to Abe Fulfilled > More than Sand on Seashore IN Egypt!

Like the TUTSI in Rwanda whom HUTU called Cockroaches!

Like the NAZIS who tried to EXTERMINATE the JEWS

Like UNWANTED BABIES in WORLD that are KILLED in WOMB

One of the PROBLEMS of the STATE in Egypt was HEBREWS

GOD is Greater than GOV’T – ALL Evil of World – Moses > 120 yrs!

v. 23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

Parents – Believers who Took RISKS for Life / Faith > FEARED God

“BEAUTIFUL” – What BABY Not Look Beautiful in Mother’s Arms?

This CHILD is MADE in Image of GOD > Reflects God’s BEAUTY

FAITH cannot be PASSED On – GIFT from GOD

But PATTERNS of Faithfulness > Bible, Prayer, Honesty, Church

Moses DRANK in COURAGE thru his Mother’s MILK

Today DADS taking Kids to Church > Makes it STICK

Father NOT go Church, even if Wife does, 1 Child in 50 become Regular

Father DOES go Regular, Regardless Mother: 2/3– ¾ kids attend Adults

KIDS are WATCHING esp When Parents say Have FAITH in God

Some KIDS are HARDENED by Hypocrisy of their PARENTS

Others ADMIRE their CONSISTENCY > Even in DISAGREEMENTS

Do we show a God who is MERCIFUL and MIGHTY?

Do we admit our sins/struggles? Do we speak kindly about others?

Do we spend all money on selves? Do we rejoice in others failure/misery?

NATIONAL Identity of HEBREWS – God’s COVENANT People

MONOTHEISTS – One True God – Not Worship IDOLS of Egypt

Passed ON to Kids thru Traditions, Scriptures, Prayers, Ceremonies

Mission Colleagues in Uganda > SWISS – Liter Free, Beautiful Country

KIDS Born and Raised ABROAD – Lived in Liter FULL Africa!

Visiting SWITZ with them – Riding Gondola – Son thru Candy Wrapper

Swiss DAD was Ballistic – Swiss Son LITTERED PRISTINE Homeland

KIND but Very CLEAR – Liter not just Ecological > IDENTITY!

Where is our HOMELAND? True CITIZENSHIP? Real IDENTITY?

Do we SEEK the Things that are ABOVE where CHRIST IS?

2. Choice of Faith

God has NO Grandchildren: Every child must DECIDE for/against Jesus

Moses had CHOICE to DETERMINE his DESTINY > Egypt or Exodus?

Stephen’s Sermon: “Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was mighty in his words and deeds”
Acts 7.22

Faith Requires YES & NO – Yes to Identity/Israelite / NO to be Egyptian

NO to Pleasures of Sin/ Treasures of Egypt – beyond wildest imaginations

MANY would look on Moses Choice and call him a FOOL

Potential for LIFE at Highest Level in World's Wealthiest Country

RICHES & PLEASURES of Egypt INEXHAUSTABLE – for SEASON!

vs. 24-26 By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.

Calculation MUST be Made > Something LOST, Something GAINED

Loss/Gain in Every Decision: School? Job? Marry? Live? Church?

Following Jesus means giving up WORLD to Embrace the CROSS

Moses FORFEITED Honor with Men to FOREVER Honor God

If NOT deny Pharaoh, Moses might Now be Mummy in British Museum

But Now FULLY ALIVE > Reigning with Christ in Heavenly Places

BLOOD of Lamb > SMEARED on Doorposts > Angel of Death Passover

How CRAZY that must have Seemed! > No Shortage of Crazy in Egypt

UNSEEN God > DELIVERED His People / DROWNED their Enemies

CROSS of Jesus > Saves God's People > Sends enemies to their Death

IF Jesus does NOT Pay for your SINS > You will PAY them Yourself

3. Conflict of Faith

Jesus: "If the WORLD Hates Me, Wanna Follow Me, Hate YOU TOO!"

Took side of ISRAELITE in Fight Against Egyptian > Forfeited Status

He BURNED the SHIPS: Never INVITED back home by Pharaoh

v. 27 By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible.

"seeing Him who is invisible" Talked w Him BURNING Bush – "I AM"

What makes a person REJECT All that is Known, Comfortable, Secure?

Not MENTAL Defect – Trained in wisdom of Egypt – Author Pentateuch

vs. 28,29 By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them. By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned.

Could've been JOSEPH 2.0 – Sit on Throne at Pharaoh's Right Hand

CALCULATION v. 25 'chose' / v. 26 'he considered'

W/out faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. Hebrews 11.6

Moses CHOSE to Join LOSING Team > UNDERDOGS

Reminder > Context of Hebrews – Want to Follow Moses? DO IT!

Age 80 – Discovers PURPOSE of First 79 Years of LIFE!

Age 40-80 STUCK in Cul-de-Sac / DEAD END watching SHEEP!

WHY? God SHAPING Moses to Shepherd Over Million Israelite Sheep

At First seems like Moses drew the SHORT STRAW in Following X

But Faith's REWARD Often revealed at END of Life of Faithfulness

GAVE UP 1. Son of Pharaoh

2. Pleasures of Sin

3. Treasures of Egypt

4. Life in Sophisticated Nation

5. Losing Firstborn Son

6. Divine Plagues

7. Drowning in Red Sea

8. Fighting Against God

GOT 1. Son of Hebrew Slave

2. Ill Treatment w/the Persecuted

3. Reproach of Christ

4. Life in Wilderness

5. Firstborn Son of Covenant

6. Divine Protection

7. Delivered thru Red Sea

8. Following God

10 PLAGUES > TRIUMPH of God of ISRAEL over IDOLS of Egypt

HAPI – Egyptian god of NILE > True God turned River into BLOOD

HEKT – Egyptian god FROG > Like frogs? "Everywhere you step!"

AMEN RA – Sun god > SKY turned DARK by the UNSEEN True God

Moses shared Reproach of CHRIST "Anointed One" / BEFORE Christ?

By FAITH Moses TRUSTED God to send SAVIOR to bring KINGDOM

Moses wrote these Words: Spoken by God to Adam & Eve in EDEN

Stood in GUILTY Dress of LEAVES > Word of HOPE and GRACE

“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” PROTO-EVANGELION – 1st PROMISE of GOSPEL Gen 3.15

Jesus: “if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me” John 5.46

Transfiguration ...2 men were talking w/ Jesus > Moses and Elijah Luke 9.30

By Faith Moses KNEW that BEFORE the CROWN there must be CROSS

Before REIGNING w/ Christ we must FIRST be REJECTED with Him

Jesus: “Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it” Matthew 10.39

CALL of Moses > Not to Negotiate Compromise w/ PHARAOH

DECLARE God’s Word > DEMONSTRATE God’s JUSTICE

Call NATION of Israel OUT of Egypt > FOUND NEW Nation: Israel

Story CUTS Against our RELATIVISTIC, TOLERANT Generation

4. Continuation of Faith

Your Life will IMPACT Others AFTER you’re ALIVE / Fastfwd 40 yrs

v. 30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days.

Leadership MANTLE of Moses falls on Joshua > God gives Law MOSES

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1.8,9

God changes WORKMEN but carries on with the WORK

JERICHO was IMPOSSIBLE to Conquer = Man’s Logic, Strategy

Joshua’s God-given FAITH > lead Nation across JORDAN River

LINKS Woman w/ Bad Reputation / Leader w/ Great Reputation

v. 31 By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

ONLY Reputation that MATTERS is NAME of GOD > Glory to Him

God of Sovereign Grace > One of Most Beautiful Testimonies: Prostitute

Rahab to Spies: “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. 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...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. 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 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.” Joshua 2.8-14

Rahab rehearsed ACTS of God from 40 years before > Sovereign Lord

NOBODY > Too Bad to be Saved – No Religious Bkgrnd – Or Bad Past

RAHAB like us All: Saved by Grace thru Faith > despite her Day-Job

She Held on to PROMISE > for Sinners of all Shapes, Sizes, Societies

FAITH is a GIFT of Grace > Undeserved > Given to All who ASK!

When GETS SAVED – 1st Concern is that HER FAMILY be Saved TOO

RAHAB Invited Family to Come to Her House > to be SAVED!

ALL of JERICHO was Destroyed EXCEPT Rahab's Home / Family

WE Invite Family, Friends, Neighbors, Enemies > Come to JESUS

IMAGINE Some may have Scoffed > Rahab's House > What?

I want NOTHING to Do with What goes on in RAHAB'S House!

Matt 1 >> Rahab part of Nation of Israel > Ancestor of Jesus Christ

NOT about Rahab, Joshua, Moses, You, Me, this church >> JESUS!

We don't NEED Moses' FAITH > Our OWN Faith in MOSES' GOD

Moses looked to JESUS by Faith > Not KNOW His NAME, Death & Res

JESUS is Only Place ANYONE can Take REFUGE from HELL

He is the GREAT I AM – Way, Truth, Life – True God – DELIVERER

Jesus – Narrow Gate / Hard Road leads to LIFE / FEW will Find It!

TRUE Faith means OBEYING God, Despite Contradictory Circumstances

Angry Pharaoh – Egypt Army – ALL Lost 1stborn – CHARIOTS

Attacked from Behind > RED SEA Stood in Front > TRAPPED!

Moses said to the people, “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.” Exodus 14.13,14

SEA: PATH of DELIVERANCE > Then POOL of DESTRUCTION

Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord, saying,
 “I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea. The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him...The Lord will reign forever and ever.” Exodus 15.1,2,18

This weekend we celebrate the life & ministry of Martin Luther King, Jr.

MODERN Hebrews 11 HERO - Prayer gave at church pastored in 1953:

O thou Eternal God, out of whose absolute power and infinite intelligence the whole universe has come into being.

We humbly confess that we have not loved thee with our hearts, souls and minds, and we have not loved our neighbors as Christ loved us.

We have all too often lived by our own selfish impulses rather than by the life of sacrificial love as revealed by Christ.

We often give in order to receive, we love our friends and hate our enemies, we go the first mile but dare not travel the second, we forgive but dare not forget.

And so as we look within ourselves, we are confronted w/the appalling fact that the history of our lives is the history of an eternal revolt against thee.

But thou, O God, have mercy upon us. Forgive us for what we could have been, but failed to be.

Give us the intelligence to know thy will. Give us the courage to do thy will. Give us the devotion to love thy will. In the name and spirit of Jesus we pray. Amen.

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