

HEBREWS 11:23-31 OUTLINE

TESTED FAITH IS PRESERVING FAITH (PART 2)

I. Introduction

- A. Men and women of old were described as examples of people whose actions flowed from faith in God and hope in His promises leading to enduring to the end
- B. God brings His children to situations that test their faith
- C. Meaningfulness of the lives of Israelites during 400 yrs. of slavery

II. Moses

A. v. 23-26 life in Egypt

- 1.v. 23 birth> Amram and Jochebed's faith overcame fear> hiding Moses
- 2.v. 24-26 life as son of Pharaoh's daughter
 - a. These verses are not in the Exodus account
 - b. Acts 7:22 Lived as Egyptian, educated in all their learning, man of power
 - c. v. 24 no record of Moses verbally refusing his relationship
 - d. v. 25-26 how and why was his refusal accomplished?
 - i. v. 25 by a choice he made to defend his Hebrew countryman being abused by an Egyptian
 - ii. v. 26 based on valuing reproach of Christ over Egyptian treasure
 - iii. He had to choose identity as Egyptian or Hebrew- either choice carried a steep cost

B. v. 27-29 the exodus

- 1.v. 27 he leaves Egypt
 - a. Could refer to first departure to Midian or leading the exodus
 - b. He endured as seeing Him who is unseen
 - i. Leaving a pagan, idol and creation worshiping country
 - ii. God is unseen, not contained in creation- the true living God
- 2.v. 28 he kept the Passover
 - a. Like Abraham's testing, God gives a strange set of commands to obey and be protected from plague of death of the firstborn
 - b. Initiates perpetual remembrance of liberation
 - c. Points to Jesus as Passover lamb who liberates from slavery to sin
- 3.v. 29 completion of exodus
 - a. Lapse of faith> Pharaoh pursues, they panic and accuse Moses
 - b. God allows Himself to be seen in pillar of cloud/fire> protects them from the Egyptians
 - c. The Red Sea parts- by faith they must pass through with walls of water on either side
 - i. Faith is in God and hope is to escape and be brought by Him to the promised land
 - ii. A picture of our release from slavery to sin

III. v. 30-31 Jericho

- A. v. 30 let the walls fall down!

1. Another strange set of commandments to be obeyed
 2. God accomplished the victory for them b/c they obeyed by faith
- B. v. 31 Rahab's faith
1. She heard about the LORD and put her faith in Him
 - a. She hid the spies and sent them safely away
 - b. By faith, she obeyed instructions to put the red cord in the window
 2. God is faithful and she is rescued, lives among them
 3. A beautiful picture of God's grace toward a sinful woman who is also a foreigner> she is listed in the genealogy of our Savior!
- IV. What have we learned?
- A. Like Moses, God will bring us to places of decision> will we identify with our Savior and follow in His steps, even if it means trials and troubles?
 - B. The world promises comfort, praise, reputation, wealth, and hope in earthly promises but these are not our greatest needs
 1. Like all these saints, we will endure only by faith in God and His promises
 2. When we are tempted, our faithful high priest will come to our aid!
 - C. All these saints endured by seeing from afar the greater eternal hope of the heavenly country

THINKING ABOUT HEBREWS 11:23-31

1. Here are some scripture passages for you to read which will give you the background material for Monday's lesson:
 - a. The situation for the Israelites in Egypt
 - i. Exodus 1
 - ii. Acts 7:2-7, 17-19
 - b. Related to Moses' birth
 - i. Exodus 2:1-10
 - ii. Acts 7:20-22
 - c. Moses' test
 - i. Exodus 2:11-15
 - ii. Acts 7:23-29
 - d. The Passover
 - i. Exodus 12
 - e. Crossing the Red Sea
 - i. Exodus 13:17-14:31
 - f. Jericho's walls fall down
 - i. Joshua 6
 - g. Rahab's faith
 - i. Joshua 2 hiding the spies
 - ii. Joshua 6:22-25 rescue after the walls fall down
2. Re-read Hebrews 10:19-25, 32-39. How had these suffering Hebrew saints been living by faith in God and His promises? How does the author describe the opposite of faith in

v. 39? What are some examples of ways the people we have studied so far in chapter 11 did not shrink back, but have acted by faith in God and hope in His promises?

3. Think of a time in your life when you were faced with a choice which tested your faith. How did you make the choices you made? What was the underlying influence/hope driving the choices? If you stumbled, was it fear, pride, anger, other? Can you follow the trail from unbelief/ lack of faith to the emotions or beliefs or hopes that drive the choices you do not like? If you acted in faith, how was your faith strengthened by the test?

4. Read the following passages. How are faith, hope, and love related?
 - a. Hebrews 10:22-25
 - b. Colossians 1:2-5
 - c. 1 Peter 1: 3-9

Can you think of one area in your life in which you can begin to apply the author's exhortations in 10:22-25 so Jesus can empower you to walk by faith in God and His promises? What are some steps you can take?