

Hebrews

Chapter 11, Part 4

I. Introduction

- a. Two weeks back, we began a study of the “Hall of Faith”
 - i. We have learned that this passage is so encouraging because it points us to those who trusted the Lord in adverse situations
 1. The writer of Hebrews continues to stress to his audience that salvation by grace through faith is not a new concept
 - a. The Law only pointed to the true salvation found in Jesus
 - i. These saints in Hebrews 11 were saved by faith
- b. Today, we consider Moses, the midwives, and his parents only
 - i. It is so easy to look at Moses at the burning bush and the striking of the rock and see shortcomings
 1. However, Moses was an enormously faithful man of God
 - a. So faithful that God talked to him face to face, so to speak

II. Homiletics

a. **Verse 23**

- i. Though not specifically named, the midwives are certainly part of the story to keep Moses alive (**Exodus 1:15-22**)
 1. Despite Pharaoh’s right to have them executed, they remained faithful in their fear of God
 2. Pharaoh was considered to be a god to the Egyptians
 - a. Yet, these midwives clearly feared the true and living God
 - b. Was this due to what they had seen from the Israelites?
 - c. Were they surely trusting in the coming Messiah?
 - i. We cannot be sure
 1. But certainly, God used them to save Moses alive
- ii. Moses parents “*were not afraid of the king’s edict*” (**Exodus 2:1-10**)
 1. Obviously, they feared the Lord more than they feared Pharaoh
 2. They were slaves
 - a. Honestly, we cannot be sure whether some of the Jews willingly offered their children or not...we don’t know
 - i. But, Moses’ parents didn’t...they were faithful
 3. Look at the way God blessed their faith!
 4. Let it be mentioned that these folks (and the midwives) did the right thing by disobeying the king
 - a. We are to follow the laws of the land whether we politically agree with them or not...UNTIL they violate God’s Word
 - i. Then, we follow God’s Word

b. **Verses 24-26**

- i. Moses was raised as Pharaoh’s daughters child
 1. In that day and age, nobody had any more opportunity than the family of Pharaoh

- a. Life had been given to him on a silver platter, so to speak
 - i. Yet, he chose right over wrong
 - ii. Moses chose *“rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin”*
 - 1. Oh that we would learn how fleeting sin’s pleasures are!
 - 2. Do we not see the faith of Moses here?
 - a. He didn’t turn to the world’s goods but to God’s instruction
 - ii. Moses believed that God would deliver Israel through him (**Acts 7:25**)
 - 1. Even early on, Moses seemed to have some understanding that God’s plan was to deliver the Jews through Him
 - a. This same Moses later doubts at the Burning Bush
 - i. But he goes, nonetheless, even with his doubts
 - 1. This reminds us of the faith of Sarah
 - a. Remember, it takes great faith to follow God’s instruction even when you are unsure of the circumstances
- c. **Verses 27-28**
 - i. The first time Moses fled Egypt, it was the fear of the king that drove him out
 - 1. However, the second time he left, he completely forsook Egypt as he journeyed towards the land God had promised Abraham and his descendants
 - ii. Moses was full of faith throughout the entire Exodus event
 - 1. He was the spokesman for perhaps as many as 2.5 million people
 - 2. He repeatedly went before and spoke against the greatest and most powerful monarch of the day
 - a. He spoke against the man that many considered to be a god about the True and Living God
 - i. Aaron may have done the speaking, but Moses was the man God was working through and the entire Bible gives him more credit than Aaron
 - iii. Moses believed God would protect the people of Israel in the Passover (**Exodus 12**)
 - 1. Moses trusted everything God had said
 - a. It may sound crazy to the outsiders...but it happened
 - i. Just as crazy as the Flood sounded in Noah’s day, this may have sounded to many
 - 1. But, Moses believed and the Jews were spared as a result
 - iv. Throughout this entire episode, Moses had many reasons to doubt the Lord
 - 1. But, he didn’t – He endured!
- d. **Verse 29**
 - i. Even the children of Israel are given some credit here for crossing the Red Sea when God parted the waters

1. The writer of Hebrews is reminding the people he was writing to that the faith it took to cross the Red Sea on dry ground actually is the reason they had a nation to begin with

e. **Verse 30**

- i. The faithfulness of the Conquest generation is seen in their response to God's instruction at Jericho (**Joshua 6:1-5**)
 1. Most people would think this was so ridiculous that they'd simply walk away
 2. This generation is about as faithful as Israel ever was
 - a. And, as a result, you see God blessing them again and again
 - i. They believed God's Word
 3. They had faith that God would do what He said and they acted on it (**Joshua 6:20-21**)
 - a. This is believing God even in a time when things seemed unbelievable.

f. **Verse 31**

- i. The faith of Rahab speaks volumes in the account (**Joshua 2:1-14**)
 1. Though she had been brought up as a pagan and dwelled in a wicked land and had been wicked herself it seems, she believed the promises of God
 - a. God blessed it
 - b. She actually is part of the genealogy of Jesus (**Matthew 1:5**)
- ii. Rahab's actions didn't save her any more than the actions of the others saved them
 1. However, their actions were the product of their faith
 - a. And, without faith it is impossible to please God