

Jesus is Better – Hebrews

Hebrews 11:23-31

“Looking Ahead to the Reward” – June 17th, 2018



Introduction

As we make our way through Hebrew's 'Hall of Faith,' we see examples of ordinary people who trusted an extraordinary God to lead lives that honored God and benefited those around them. After learning from Abraham about trusting God when our future is uncertain, we turn our attention to Moses who helps us to know how to trust God in the *midst* of crisis. We will either live by fear or faith. Moses' example teaches us that *faith conquers fear by trusting God for His promised salvation*.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

- I. Faith conquers fear (11:23-27)
- II. Faith trusts God for His promised salvation (11:28-31)

Read & Discuss

1) Read [Hebrews 11:23-27](#)

Moses' parents and Moses himself model how faith conquers the fear of death, the fear of missing out (when we follow God), and the fear of man. What helped Moses to see that the reproach of Christ was *better* than the treasures of Egypt in the long run? Why are we tempted to indulge in the 'fleeting pleasures of sin' rather than wait for the *better* reward that comes with following Christ? Moses was able to wait patiently on God because he saw, with eyes of faith, the invisible God. What are ways we can fix our eyes on Him so we too can persevere? What are distractions and diversions that threaten to block or blur our vision of God that provides such grace?

Additional reading: Proverbs 29:25, Proverbs 14:26, James 1:14-15

*A good book we'd recommend on overcoming the fear of man is Ed Welch's book, [When People are Big and God is Small](#). Check it out! It's available at the bookstall...

2) Read [Hebrews 11:28-31](#)

After three examples of faith conquering fear, we see four examples of faith leading to salvation: salvation from the Destroyer (during the Passover), salvation from the Egyptian army, salvation at the battle with Jericho, and salvation from the walls of Jericho crashing down. Each example has its unique lessons for us, but let's pause to think of the example of the Israelites passing through the Red Sea on dry ground. Though they were initially terrified

because they were trapped between a blood-thirsty Egyptian army and a sea they couldn't cross on their own Moses' trust in God buoyed their sinking fears to trust God. Who are the people watching your life who need the encouragement of *your* trusting God? Another observation: it's helpful to see how the faith of the heroes *grew*. We don't inherit a faith that's static and lifeless; it needs to grow, and the place faith grows is *in the game*, not *on the sidelines*. In other words, if you wait to follow God until you have zero fear, you'll never act. In John 14:21, Jesus says, "Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." We see God, God *manifests* Himself to us as we obey his commands. When we step out in faith and God upholds us according to His word, we experience His grace and His faithfulness...and our faith grows! What command from God's word have you been fearfully reluctant and need to step out in faith today? Sometimes the best way to grow is to step out and act!

Additional reading: Matthew 11:28-29, Exodus 14:13-14

Prayer of Response

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand*, *believe*, *desire*, or *do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <http://firstbaptistchurchuppermarlboro-preview.cloversites.com/sermons>