

# Jesus is Better – Hebrews

Hebrews 11:8-22

“Strangers and Exiles in the World” – June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018



## Introduction

Of the noble woman, Proverbs 31:25 tells us “Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come.” When you think about the future are you able to laugh with confidence? Or do you tremble in fear of what might happen? Though the noble woman is described as incredibly wise, strong, industrious, and planned out...the ultimate reason for her confidence is not her preparedness, but her faith: she is a woman who ‘fears the LORD’ ([Prov. 31:30](#)). In Hebrew 11’s *hall of faith*, Abraham’s example shows us that *We can face the future with confidence by trusting God for a better reward*. Though often times and in many ways, he was in the dark, he never lost sight of the God he trusted – his good Shepherd who led him all the way home. Thankfully, his good Shepherd, hasn’t changed - he is *our* good Shepherd.

## 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. Trusting God when we don’t know where we’re going (11:8-10)
- II. Trusting God when we don’t know how God’s plan will work (11:11-12)
- III. Trusting God when we don’t know when God will act (11:13-16)
- IV. Trusting God when we don’t know why things happen as they do (11:17-22)

## Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [Hebrews 11:8-12](#)

Though God gave Abraham an amazing promise of land and offspring ([Gen. 12:1-3](#)), he and Sarah had to wait. When he set out in obedience to God’s command, Abraham didn’t know *where* God was taking him and when he looked at their circumstances (old age and barrenness) he and Sarah didn’t know *how* God’s plan was going to work. But instead of requiring all the details (and trusting *themselves*) they fixed their eyes on the God making the promises. It’s then they remembered that God is ‘faithful who had promised’ (v11). What makes waiting on God challenging for you? How does God help us trust Him in our waiting? When you consider Abraham and Sarah waiting 25 years, why would God have them wait until Abraham’s body was considered ‘as good as dead’ (v12) before he came through on His promise with offspring?

Additional reading: Matthew 6:34, James 1:5-6, Genesis 18:9-15

2) Read [Hebrews 11:13-16](#)

Abraham, Sarah and Isaac all died, not having received the things promised. It's not that God failed to keep His promise, but a reminder that death is not the end of hope for the believer. God's promises go beyond what we experience in this life and point us to a heavenly city, a better place than this earth. Far from making us to heavenly minded to be any earthly good...knowing what God has in store for us in the future sets the Christian free to be generous, open handed and wise with God's gifts on earth. Though we live on earth, our citizenship is ultimately not here, but in heaven ([Phil. 3:20](#)) which makes us strangers and exiles during our time on earth ([1 Pet. 2:11](#)). Do you live your life on earth with the hope of heaven? Or, do you live as if this life is everything...desperate to make the most of everything the world has to offer because this is it? How can we encourage each other to live as strangers in this world rather than making *this* our home?

Additional reading: Philippians 1:21, Romans 8:18

3) Read [Hebrews 11:17-22](#)

The most challenging test Abraham would have known was the command to offer up his son Isaac ([Genesis 22](#)), whom he and Sarah had waited for 25 years. God's command *seemed* at odds with His promise to raise up offspring through Isaac. Abraham likely was asking *why?! Why would God do it this way?* Sometimes we have God's answers to why He does what he does; other times, God points us to His character, His heart...and knowing who He is, is enough for us to trust and follow Him. Though Isaac was spared in Genesis 22, God the Father would later offer His own Son to be a sacrifice for *our* sin. What does this tell us about God's heart to us when we're tempted to doubt? How does Jesus' willingness ([John 10:18](#)) to humble Himself and go to the cross for our salvation help us to trust God more?

Additional reading: John 3:16, Romans 8:31-32

### ***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.

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