

Building Our Faith....

Through the Hall of Faith (4)

Introduction

- 1. We are continuing our study of faith so as to be able to have confidence in our God and steadfastness in our work for Him.**
- 2. Let's keep the object of these lessons ever before us:**
 - A. To show that faith in God's promises has been in all ages the means of perseverance in true religion and consequently salvation!**
 - B. To show there is power in faith to keep the mind and heart, in midst of trials and tribulations, having examples before us, to adhere steadfastly to the profession of our faith.**
- 3. We have learned over the past 3 weeks that a strong faith is a faith that is one which will suffer, remain steadfast, will persevere, and be obedient for the cause of Christ as we learned in the character examples of Abel, Enoch, Noah and Abraham.**
 - A. We have learned the following:**
 - 1) **Heb 11:1****
 - 2) **Heb 11:6****
 - 3) Abel - Suffering - *"he being dead, still speaks"***
 - 4) Enoch - Steadfastness - *"he pleased God"***
 - 5) Noah - Perseverance *"moved with godly fear"***
 - 6) Abraham - Obedience *"obeyed when he was called"***
- 4. Tonight, we will progress through the hall of faith and learn about another important Bible character to help us establish a firm faith in our Lord.**

Moses

Hebrews 11:23-29

- 1. Moses, the writer of the first five books of the Old Testament was perhaps the one example of faith that each one of us can relate to in our day to day life.**
 - A. The characters that we have studied, Abel, Enoch, Noah, and Abraham were faithful without much mentioned in regard to their weak points.**
 - B. Moses, although a great leader and man of faith.....We see his life, a life exposed openly as he tells of his personal trials, tribulations, and struggles.**
 - 1) We can learn through his great example of faith that faith does not just happen ----- we grow toward it.**

2. The life of Moses had many high points, but he also records for our learning many, many of his valleys. We learn to appreciate his character even more, when we take note of these valleys, some of which we also must deal with in our life as we strive to gain a deeper faith each day.

- A. Taken from his parents as an infant**
- B. Was raised in a household corrupt in idolatry, with emphasis on power and wealth**
- C. Taught as an Egyptian (Acts 7:22)**
- D. Rejected by his own people for 40 years (Acts 7:23-29)**
- E. Was not a born leader, he did not want to deliver the people at God's initial call (Exod 3:10-11; 4:10-11)**
- F. His wife opposed him (Exod 4:24-26)**
- G. His brother made a golden calf at Sinai (Exod 32:1-4)**
- H. His sister and brother rebelled against him on more than one occasion (Numb 14:10; Exod 17:4)**
- I. In the heat of the moment, he rebelled at the waters of Meribah ----- He was momentarily arrogant (Numb 20:7-12)**
- J. Lost His opportunity to enter into Canaan (Deut 3:23-27)**

- 1) Yet through all these valleys of his life, we see strength of faith that he developed in order to be considered faithful.**

Heb 3:5 And Moses indeed was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken afterward,

3. Moses' life was laid open for us to examine and learn from. I believe that this great man wanted to show us that he was human as we are, a man not without sin, yet he stayed focused on "the reward" (11:26).

4. Let's take a look at some of the decisions that Moses made in his life, decisions that also confront us, and see how important **Hebrews 11:6 played in these decisions:**

The Two Elements in Moses' Decision

- 1. How, when, and what decision is made, shows what a person is.**
- 2. We see two elements in Moses' decision.**
 - A. There is the negative element in that it was said of him that "he refused" (Heb 11:24).**
 - 1) This was a full-fledged NO, not half-hearted.**
 - 2) We must make a full fledged commitment today to say NO to the ways of the world.**
 - B. There is the positive element - a full-fledged YES!**
 - 1) He refused one way, but vowed within himself to travel another way.**
 - 2) Sadly, some are content with mere refusal with no desire to change and head in the right direction.**
 - C. More seem to be concerned with what we must say "no" to rather than what we say "yes" to.**
 - 1) We need to say "no" to the lowest and "yes" to the highest**
 - a. No to darkness, Yes to light**
 - b. No to sin, Yes to righteousness**
 - c. No to uselessness, Yes to usefulness**
 - d. No to Satan, Yes to Christ**
- 3. Moses had a longing hope of being with God, a faith that was always growing. We need to have that kind of attitude. We need to learn what to say "Yes" to and "No" to.**

The Decision of Moses Was Costly

1. Moses had MUCH to give up in the material and social world that he lived in.

Luke 14:27-28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it--

A. High social position - from the son of Pharaoh's daughter to a Hebrew slave.

B. Enormous material wealth - to living with practically nothing.

1) Others have been faced with a decision of wealth or Christ and failed to say "no" to wealth and "yes" to Christ

Matt 19:21-22 Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

C. He gave up the only family he knew – to serve God

1) Pharaoh's daughter — Saved his life, educated him, raised him.

Matthew 10:34-37

2. Not only was Moses' choice costly in what he gave up, but also in what he chose.

A. He chose suffering (Heb 11:25).

2 Tim 3:12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

1) Why did he choose suffering? Because he knew (he had faith, confidence) that heaven would be worth it all!

Psalms 73:2-17 (VS 17!)

Why Did Moses Make His Choice?

1. **He had a clear eye for distinguishing right and wrong**
Hebrews 11:27

Matt 6:22-23 "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

2. **He knew that the pleasure of sin was only a temporal thing.**

- A. **Sin has no charm in the past. Have you ever said to yourself, "Boy, I sure wish I committed that sin again?"**

- B. **If we choose sin, we may laugh and rejoice in it now, but when our laughter has died, our roses have withered, we'll have an eternity to curse ourselves!**

Luke 6:25 Woe to you who are full, For you shall hunger. Woe to you who laugh now, For you shall mourn and weep.

3. **Moses knew what real values were.**

- A. **He esteemed the reproach of Christ greater riches**
Hebrews 11:26

- B. **He looked to the final reward**
2 Corinthians 4:16-18

4. **He knew that the outcome of his decision was an eternity with God!**

- A. **His trip to Mt Nebo was not the end, but rather the beginning of an eternal relationship with his God.**

- 1) **May we all be determined to make the right choices in life. Salvation is reserved for the few that have the faith to make God their choice each day.**
Matthew 7:13-14

