



Sermon-Based Study Guide
Prepared by Rev. James R. Wilson, D. Min.
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Sermon Text: Hebrews 11.23-31

Related Texts: Mark 10.17-30; Exodus 2 and 3

I. Start It – Connecting With One Another

What are some things you are looking forward to in the future?

II. Introduction

Live by faith. That's the encouragement the Hebrews author gives the readers. Live by faith - being sure of what you hope for and certain of what you do not see. Live by faith - confident in the faithfulness and trustworthiness of God. Live by faith - looking ahead to the "better country" to come in the fulfillment of God's promises to those who are faithful.

In the passage for this week we see the preacher/author urging the Hebrew Christians to live by faith - following the example of Moses in particular - who chose to trust and obey God despite the consequences.

III. Study the Text – Skim Through Exodus Chapters 2 and 3

- 1) It will be helpful to have this background related to the birth and life of Moses as we consider the Hebrews passage. After looking at these chapters, how would you describe 1) God's sovereignty in Moses' life, and 2) the way God raises up people for difficult tasks?

IV. Study the Text – Read Hebrews 11.23-31

- 1) Verse 23 focuses on Moses' parents. Exodus 1.22 tells us that the King of Egypt, out of fear of the growing numbers of the Hebrew people, issued an edict that all Hebrew baby boys were to be killed. How would you describe Moses' parents in terms of their faith, courage, and willingness to act despite the consequences?
- 2) Verses 24 through 28 focus on Moses. The Hebrews author suggests three specific things Moses did - by faith - that had consequences.
 - a. What are the consequences of his choice described in verses 24-26? What enabled Moses to make this choice according to verse 26?
 - b. The second is found in verse 27. Moses left Egypt and spent 40 years in Midian. How was he made able to persevere through this time in exile while his people languished?
 - c. The third is found in verse 28 where the author references Exodus 12.21-23. How was

this an act of faith? What would the consequences be for not making this choice?

- 3) The Hebrews author refers to Moses living by faith because "he was looking forward to his reward" (verse 26) and because "he saw him who is invisible." How would you describe what is meant by "his reward" and "him who is invisible?" How did Moses "see" them? How is faith related to seeing what is invisible?

Note: Clearly the author sees Moses as a person who lived by faith and who acted and made choices in the context of that faith. His example is relevant to the Hebrew Christians who faced similar choices of obeying God, of identifying as people who trusted and followed Jesus, and of being faithful even if it meant severely negative consequences. Moses' example is also relevant to us as we face the choices (maybe much more subtle ones than Moses faced) to be faithful followers of Jesus despite the consequences that may come with doing so.

- 3) As you look at verses 29 through 31 and the three examples of living by faith found there, what is the common element in them? In other words, what is the common response of the people in these three examples? Do you agree that living by faith is synonymous with acting by faith? Can a person live by faith without choosing and acting in obedience to God?
- 4) The Gospel According to Mark records an encounter Jesus has with a wealthy young man. Look at Mark 10.17-30. When you look just at verses 17 and 20 how would you describe the man's attitude? Humility? Sincerity? What do you think Jesus is inviting the man to do when he tells him the things found in verse 21? Is this an invitation to live by faith and to trust in and follow Jesus despite the consequences?

V. Apply It –Reflect and Respond

- 1) As we did last week, reflect on the models of faith described in this passage. How would you compare your faith - faith that chooses and acts and obeys Jesus despite the consequences - with that of Moses' parents, Moses, the Israelites crossing the sea and marching around Jericho, and Rahab?
- 2) How do Jesus' words to the wealthy young man "Go, sell everything you have, give to the poor... then come follow me" define what it means to "accept Jesus into your life?" By this definition can you say you have truly done this?
- 3) Reflect on the two quotes from C. S. Lewis. How do these relate to our focus on living by faith?

I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.

If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.