

Series "Jesus Is Better"
"Defining Moments"
Hebrews 11:30-40
Study-28

Defining Moment – "a point at which the essential nature or character of a person, group, is revealed or identified."

The word "Faith" occurs 24X in this chapter.

Hebrews 11:32 – "And what more shall I say? For time will fail me"

Apostle John had the same problem in the Gospel of John: John 21:25

"The New Testament Is In The Old Testament Concealed, And The Old Testament Is In The New Testament Revealed."

The Thought Of Our Passage: "Faith In God's Promises Enabled The Old Testament Saints To Claim God's Promises And Experience God's Salvation."

1. Verses 30-32 – Faith In The Land Of Promise

2. Verses 33-40 – Faith And How It Triumphs

1. Verses 30-32 – Faith In The Land Of Promise:

Hebrews 11:30

"By faith Moses" – in Hebrews 11:23-29

Hebrews 11:29

Verse 30 – Joshua – Man's Weakness Versus God's Power!

"By faith the walls of Jericho fell down." Joshua 6:1-20 – Acts Of Faith Marked The Entrance Into The Promised Land.

Faith does not oppose Satan's devices with human devices.
2 Corinthians 10:4

Their faith endured through that week of walking in circles.
Joshua 6:2

Verse 31 – Rahab – Faith In The Most Unlikely Place, Jericho!

Hebrews 11:31

"By faith Rahab the harlot" – Pagan Canaanite, prostitute, a woman.

"did not perish along with those who were disobedient," – Joshua 6:17

"after she had welcomed the spies in peace." – Joshua 2:9-11
Verse 32 – Diversified Faith: Hebrews 11:32

"And what more shall I say?" – The author believed that he had proved his premise. God's people have always been called to endure patiently in faith.

"For time will fail me if I tell" – The author then quickly mentioned **6 More Names:**

- 1) **Gideon – Judges 6-8:** Gideon and 300 men put to flight the Midianites of 135,000; Judges 7:7.
- 2) **Barak – Judges 4-5:** Barak – The impossible became the possible through faith!
- 3) **Samson – Judges 13-16:** Samson, the strong man of the Bible; Samson was a one man army, but a prisoner of his passions. The end of his life, Samson called on the Lord for strength.
Judges 16:30
- 4) **Jephthah – Judges 11-12:** Illegitimate child of a harlot, forced to leave his father's house and dwell with social outcasts.
Judges 11:1-3

Judges 11:32
- 5) **David (The Kings) – 1 Samuel 16-30; 2 Samuel 1-24; 1 Kings 1-2:** David was raised up by God. The Giant Killer (Goliath), who was a great military leader.
- 6) **Samuel – 1 Samuel 1-16:** The Priest, Prophet, and last Judge. When Israel rebelled against God, Samuel by faith prayed and remained Faithful to God.

"and the prophets," – The Prophets Started With Samuel To Which It Continued! (Completes Israel's History through the Prophets).

2. Verses 33-40 – Faith And How It Triumphs:

Hebrews 11:33

"who by faith" – Verses 33-34 Contain 9 Descriptions Of Faith. They are divided into 3 groups of 3: **Faith's Attainments; Faith's Endurance; Faith's Achievement:**

Verse 33 – Faith’s Attainments (3):

- 1) “conquered kingdoms,”** – Some subdued kingdoms; Moses – took on the Egyptian kingdom.

Joshua and Israel occupied and took the Promised Land in 7 years. Joshua 12 – 31 Kings, Insurmountable odds, but by Faith, God did the impossible.

David – conquered the nations surrounding Israel promise through Moses, Deut 1:7-8 – David saw fulfillment of the promise by faith.

- 2) “performed acts of righteousness,”** – (Faith Behaving)
Samuel – 1 Samuel 12:3-23; 15:33 and David – 2 Samuel 8:15

Elijah – 1 Kings 18

- 3) “obtained promises,”** – (Faith Believing) Joshua 21:45

Solomon – said, 1 Kings 8:56

Apostle Paul – 2 Corinthians 1:20

Verses 33-34 – Faith’s Miraculous Feats (3):

- 1) “shut the mouths of lions,”** – Samson – Judges 14:5-6

David – 1 Samuel 17:34-37, Benaiah – 2 Samuel 23:20, and Daniel – Daniel 6:22

Hebrews 11:34

- 2) “quenched the power of fire,”** – Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace, Daniel 3:25.

- 3) “escaped the edge of the sword,”** – Jephthah – Judges 12:3

David – 1 Samuel 18:11

Elijah – 1 Kings 19:1-2; Elisha – 2 Kings 6:14-17

Verse 34 – Faith’s Achievements (3):

- 1) “from weakness were made strong,”** – David – took on Goliath, 1 Samuel 17:33.

Paul's thorn in the flesh, he trusted God and God empowered him – 2 Cor 12:9

2) "became mighty in war," – Judges, Joshua, David – Psalm 18:34-38

3) "put foreign armies to flight." – Joshua – Joshua 23:10

David – Killed Goliath and the Philistines fled, 1 Samuel 17:51.

Verses 35-38 – Faith's Endurance: Hebrews 11:35

"Women received back their dead by resurrection;" – The Widow (Gentile) in the days of Elijah, 1 Kings 17:21-22.

The Shunammite Woman in the time of Elisha – 2 Kings 4:17-35

Widow at Nain whose son Jesus raised, Luke 7:11-15; Lazarus, Jesus restored to Mary and Martha, John 11.

Joppa a woman named Dorcas was raised by Peter Acts 9:36-41

"and others were tortured," – They were literally beaten to death. Jeremiah 20:2

The Apostle Paul – 2 Corinthians 11:23-25

Hebrews 11:36

"and others experienced mockings and scourgings," – Acts 5:40: flogged the Apostles; Paul beaten and placed in stocks, Acts 16:22-23.

"yes, also chains and imprisonment." – Included in this group were Joseph – Genesis 39:20, and Jeremiah – Jeremiah 20:2; 37:15.

Hebrews 11:37

"They were stoned," – Zechariah the priest – 2 Chronicles 24:21.

Jesus said – Matthew 23:35, Stephen was stoned – Acts 7:58-60

"they were sawn in two," – Tradition states that King Manasseh killed Isaiah.

"were tempted, they were put to death with the sword;" – Elijah – 1 Kings 19:10.

"they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins," – Elijah, Elisha, John the Baptist.

"being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated" – The book of Acts we see this.

Hebrews 11:38

"(men of whom the world was not worthy)," – They were too noble and grand to continue their existence on planet Earth.

"wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground."
– 1 Kings 18:4

Verse 39-40 – Faith's Commendation: Hebrews 11:39

"And all these, having gained approval through their faith," – "obtained a good report through faith."

"what was promised" – The promise was the Messiah.

Hebrews 11:40

"so that apart from us they would not be made perfect." – "No one was made perfect under the Old Covenant because Christ had not died yet. They were saved, but not until Jesus' work on the cross was complete could salvation be perfect. Their salvation looked ahead; ours looks back to what Jesus did and ours is perfect."

(NLT) Ephesians 1:9-10

Application:

1. Faith Accepts God's Word – Confident Obedience To God's Word In Spite Of Feelings, Circumstances, And Consequences.
2. Joshua Teaches Us That Faith Does Not Oppose Satan's Devices With Human Devices.
3. Rahab Teaches Us That Faith Can Be Found In The Most Unlikely Places, Even Jericho.
4. Faith's Attainments, Faith's Miraculous Feats, Faith's Endurance, Lead To Faith's Commendation, Which Is God's Approval.