

Jesus Is Better
Hebrews 11:20-40
Faithfully Forward

Correct the swapping of Abel and Cain's careers.

Intro

Life is full of moments we look forward to seeing happen. We have several that will be happening in the coming years. They will be better sweet. Next year Annie start her senior year of high school. Katie-Beth will start her freshman year, and Andy will start his last year of middle school. Katie-Beth will be driving soon so look out for that! Andy won't be far behind on that either.

I look forward to the college Annie will chose. I look forward to seeing what the other two decide, college, tech school, or a career. I'm excited to see them become Jesus loving adults living following the path God has laid out for them. I look forward to all the milestones in their lives and if they have kids I look forward to getting them all wound up and sending them home.

I like to remember when my kids were younger. Do I miss it? No, because I try my best to enjoy where they are now and look forward to what they are going to do.

Transition

We all have moments in life that we can look forward to. Sometimes we look on with anxiety, excitement, a bit of both, and sometime with apathy. Marriage, the birth of child or grandchild, finishing a degree, graduating high school, starting that new job, etc. For those that are Christians our faith gives us something truly amazing to look forward to, eternity with Jesus.

Sticky Statement: Faith looks forward to Christ!

Passage

20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. 21 By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and he worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. 22 By faith Joseph, as he was nearing the end of his life, mentioned the exodus of the Israelites and gave instructions concerning his bones.

Hebrews 11:20-22

Isaac passed the promise Abraham had taught him down to his sons.

These men were looking forward to what God was going to do.

They knew God had promised to build a nation through their descendants.

In faith they lived their lives according to that promise.

They were not perfect.

They were stubborn, prideful, acted foolishly but they believed that God would fulfill His promises.

Jospeh believed it so strongly that while the nation was in Egypt he asked his bones be brought to the land of promise.

Faith looks forward to Christ!

Faith looks forward to what God is going to do!

Pick up in verse 23:

23 By faith Moses, after he was born, was hidden by his parents for three months, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they didn't fear the king's edict. 24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter 25 and chose to suffer with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasure of sin. 26 For he considered reproach for the sake of Christ to be greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, since he was looking ahead to the reward. 27 By faith he left Egypt behind, not being afraid of the king's anger, for Moses persevered as one who sees him who is invisible. 28 By faith he instituted the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn might not touch the Israelites. 29 By faith they crossed the Red Sea as though they were on dry land. When the Egyptians attempted to do this, they were drowned.

Hebrews 11:23-28

What is a reason a child might be called beautiful?

We immediately think of this as a physical description, however that is not the intention of the author.

What was beautiful about Moses was that God had a great plan for him.

His parents knew this from the moment he was born and knew they needed to protect him at all cost.

For this their faith is commended here.

Moses grew up and rejected the lush sin filled life he was afforded by being in the house of Pharaoh's daughter.

By faith he chose to live alongside of his people.

Look again at verse 26:

26 For he considered reproach for the sake of Christ to be greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, since he was looking ahead to the reward.

Hebrews 11:26

How did Moses do anything for the sake of Christ?

While Moses had not seen the physical body of Christ, he knew God had a plan for redemption.

For this plan, for this revelation of God Moses saw the humility of being a slave as worth it.

Faith looks forward to Christ!

Lets pick up in verse 29:

29 By faith they crossed the Red Sea as though they were on dry land. When the Egyptians attempted to do this, they were drowned. 30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after being marched around by the Israelites for seven days. 31 By faith Rahab the prostitute welcomed the spies in peace and didn't perish with those who disobeyed.
Hebrews 11:29-31

It faith that would lead the people through the sea as on dry land and to the edge of the promised land.

The author commended the nation of Israel for following the battle plan given by God to take the city of Jericho.

In verse 31 the author goes from commending the faith of the nation to that of a person.

He mentions Rahab. She is the one that helped the spies escape from the city of Jericho.

What makes her different:

1. She is not an Israelite as the others have been
2. Her profession is not one most be associate with following God.

She was a prostitute when she chose to trust God and help his people.

This helps us to see that **God sees past the surface and changes the heart** of the person.

It doesn't matter where we are from, what we have done, or what we are doing.

He calls based on His desires and gives faith those He wishes.

She was not motivated by a desire to survive because common sense said she was safe within the walls of the city.

Besides Israel while a large nation had not army, how would they possibly breach the walls of the city.

She knew something better lay ahead.

Faith looks forward to Christ!

Pick up in verse 32:

32 And what more can I say? Time is too short for me to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets, 33 who by faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the raging of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, gained strength in weakness, became mighty in battle, and put foreign armies to flight. 35 Women received their dead, raised to life again. Other people were tortured, not accepting release, so that they might gain a better resurrection. 36 Others experienced mockings and scourgings, as well as bonds and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawed in two, they died by the sword, they wandered about in sheepskins, in goatskins, destitute, afflicted, and mistreated. 38 The world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and on mountains, hiding in caves and holes in the ground. 39 All these were approved through their faith, but they did not receive what was promised, 40 since God had provided something better for us, so that they would not be made perfect without us.

The author then gives a list of those that have been found faithful.

Those listed here were far from perfect.

Gideon demanded signs from God before he would act.

Samson liked ummm woman, a lot.

Jephthah vowed to sacrifice his own daughter.

David seduced a married woman, got her pregnant then covered it up by having her husband placed in the heat of battle so he would be killed.

These men where not found faithful because of they were perfect but because ultimately they trusted God to keep His promises.

In the face of their imperfection God offered grace.

He also states there is not enough time to list everyone of Faith.

He mentions great acts accomplished by faith in the promises of God.

In verse 36 he reminds the reader of those that experienced torture and death for the sake of Christ.

Look at 39 and 40 with me:

39 All these were approved through their faith, but they did not receive what was promised, 40 since God had provided something better for us, so that they would not be made perfect without us.

Hebrews 11:39-40

These two verses seem strange.

They were approved but did not receive the promise?

What does the author mean by this?

The promise was that a redeemer would come and pay the price for sin.

The people of the Old Testament did not live to see this happen however they had faith that it would one day come.

Faith looks forward to Christ!

Application

In the face of our imperfections God offers grace.

Faith does not dwell on past mistakes but looks forward to Christ's perfection.

Faith looks to the past for evidence of how God has worked in order to see how He is moving now!

Faith looks forward to promise that Christ will return to restore all of creation to perfection!

Faith looks forward to Christ!

We all place our faith in something: people, jobs, money, etc.

Challenge

What does your faith look forward to?

Commentaries Used in Preparation

Christ Center Exposition: Exalting Christ in Hebrews

The Gospel Coalition Commentary on Hebrews by Dennis Johnson