**Greater Than All - wk 16 – Faith Road Trip – Pt 3**

**We have been taking an old-fashioned road trip – a magic mystery tour – get in the car and trust the driver – how can we do this on our life?**

**Hebrews written to Jewish followers thinking of quitting the faith - don’t give up but grow up! True faith perseveres.**

**Hebrews 11:1 Now faith (Gk Pistos / Trust in God) is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. 2 This is what the ancients were commended for. (Hall of Faith!) 6 And without faith it is impossible to please God…**

**Biblical Faith - is a supernatural trust and assurance in what God says even if you don’t see it or understand it.**

**Not a force, positive thinking or vibe, absence of fear or doubt. It is not risk taking and blind leaps. Faith is Trusting God enough to do what he says. And we do this through Jesus.**

**Hebrews 11 the HS speaks through the writer to give us their most dynamic moments of faith. The highlight reels.**

**(Last week Abe – this wk, 3 people) Hebrews 11:20 By faith Isaac (Abraham’s promised son – the one he almost sacrificed) blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future. (At the end of his life he blessed them both)**

**How is that faith? We need to know the story.**

**ISAAC**

**God appeared to Isaac as he did Abraham and told him too that he was the person of promise whose family line would change the world.**

**Had two sons – twins. Esau (first) and Jacob (second) came out grabbing Esau’s heel. Named “Heal grabber” = deceiver, trickster. What a name to live down.**

**Jacob became a deceptive momma’s boy – Esau, a not so sharp man’s man (explain). Isaac preferred Esau over Jacob. Culturally it should’ve have been Esau. Technically it should not have been Jacob.**

**Jacob tricked his blind dad into a blessing (mom helped, stew he never hunted, Esau’s clothes, goatskin on hands & neck)**

**Let’s take a look at that tragic emotional moment of faith. - Genesis 27:30 After Isaac finished blessing him, (Dynamic prayer giving Abe and Isaacs blessing to Jacob) and Jacob had scarcely left his father’s presence, his brother Esau came in from hunting. 31 He too prepared some tasty food and brought it to his father. Then he said to him, “My father, please sit up and eat some of my game, so that you may give me your blessing.” (Isaac about to die – pass on God’s promise, I am ready) 32 His father Isaac asked him, “Who are you?” “I am your son,” he answered, “your firstborn, Esau.” 33 Isaac trembled violently and said, “Who was it, then, that hunted game and brought it to me? I ate it just before you came and I blessed him - and indeed he will be blessed!” 34 When Esau heard his father’s words, he burst out with a loud and bitter cry and said to his father, “Bless me - me too, my father!” (Do you have anything??)**

**He begged his father for something- his blessing was basically (Gen 27) You will always be struggling for provision and be at war with others and will serve your brother. But you will eventually grow tired of your anger and will forgive him. Wow, not much of a blessing.**

**When Abe, Isaac, and Jacob speak blessing – they speak as prophets of God – the truth. God knew it was Jacob and not Esau. God picked Jacob – it was not a surprise to God.**

**By Faith Isaac blessed Jacob**

**He trusted and knew God always gets what He wants**

**Once he realized what happened he understood. God, you win.**

**Esau I cannot bless you, God is in control, and knew that what God said would come to pass, we can’t change it. (Esau asking his dad for the blessing - Isaac tells him - Gen 27:33 …indeed, Isaac shall be blessed)**

**Isaac tried to pick who he thought should deserve the promise but God had his way. And now Isaac knew – God always does what he says and gets what he wants – every time.**

* **Never forget - God chooses who receives his favor. God decided then and still does today.**

**By faith he could not give Esau the same blessing – that’s why it says - Heb 11:20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future.**

**BTW - What Jacob did out of selfish reasons – God intended for good. (We see this again in Joseph’s life)**

**Next - Hebrews 11:21 By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph’s sons, (his grandkids? Why is that a matter of faith?) and worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff. (That is an odd thing to point out?)**

**JACOB**

**Jacob grows up running from God and from Esau (getting tricked himself along the way) - has 12 sons (1 girl) - favors 2 sons (of true love - Rachels sons) Oldest of them 2 is Joseph – his absolute favorite.**

**Later in life - God gets a hold of Jacob - his whole is life is flipped - changed – God met with him as he did Abe & Isaac.**

**Jacob’s (deceiver) name is changed to Israel (fighter) by God – and the 12 sons become 12 tribes / families of Israel.**

**Joseph ends up saving the entire family from death.**

**At Jacob’s death – he gave a special blessing to… Joe’s kids. His grandson’s Ephraim and Manasseh. (Egyptian born)**

**Hebrews 11 is refereeing to that moment - Genesis 48**

**Josephs visits his dying Father Jacob / Israel, losing his sight – he calls the boys to come near. They hop off Joe’s lap and move closer.**

**Joe moves oldest (Manasseh) to Jacob’s right hand and the youngest (Ephraim) to Jacobs left hand - because the oldest son gets the better blessing – with the greater blessing hand.**

**But look what Jacob/ Israel does – Gen 48:14 And Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on the head of Ephraim, who was the younger, and his left hand on the head of Manasseh, crossing his hands (for Manasseh was the firstborn). (Intentionally gave the younger one a greater blessing- crossed arms)**

**17 When Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him, and he took his father's hand to move it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head. 18 And Joseph said to his father, “Not this way, my father; since this one is the firstborn, put your right hand on his head.” (Dad does not know any better) 19 But his father refused and said, “I know, my son, I know. He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great. Nevertheless, his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his offspring shall become a multitude of nations.” 20 So he blessed them that day, saying, “By you Israel will pronounce blessings, saying, ‘God make you as Ephraim and as Manasseh.’” Thus, he put Ephraim before Manasseh.**

**21 Then Israel said to Joseph, “Behold, I am about to die, but God will be with you and will bring you again to the land of your fathers. (you’re going to go back to the promise land – but did not say he would be alive) 22 Moreover, I have given to you rather than to your brothers one mountain slope that I took from the hand of the Amorites with my sword and with my bow.” (Jacobs well, where the Samaritan woman met Jesus)**

**Jacob blessed the grand-boys first – then the others.**

**By Faith Jacob blessed his grandchildren**

**He trusted that what God said would absolutely come to pass**

**Jacob did not see the promise come true, but knew by faith that it would - it was as good as done. The promise was deep inside - he handed it down to his Egyptian grandsons. He showed his faith by passing it down to his grandkids as if it was his.**

**400 yrs later when they finally moved into the promise land. Joseph was given a double potion (his 2 sons became 2 tribes) They became the 2 most influential of all the other tribes. (Does that make 13 tribes?)**

**Ephraim tribe eventually became the head of the 10 tribes of Israel, known as the people of Ephraim. For a season most powerful tribe.**

**Again – God chose Joseph one of the younger sons – and God chose the young grandsons and the younger of them.**

* **God picks who he picks (I don’t get that?) we must believe this by faith. Again - God favors who he favors – it’s not our decision –**

**FYI - In terms of salvation – We simply share the good news and invite a response; it is the Lord who decides. And - He always gets what he wants.**

**We are like Ephraim - the 2nd born, the rebellious ones, undeserving of the blessing of God – but God through Christ, was crossed, and the right hand of God was extended to us. Undeserved. Unmerited.**

**The firstborn above creation (Jesus) sacrificed himself to give us the blessing of the father - we become the chosen of God.**

**Genesis 48:20 So he blessed them that day, saying, “By you Israel will pronounce blessings, saying, ‘God make you as Ephraim and as Manasseh.’” Thus, he put Ephraim before Manasseh. (Check this out)**

**Manasseh means – God helps me forget my troubles**

**Ephraim means – God gives me a fruitful new life**

* **The promise of God is that through Jesus we have grace from our past and a new life ahead - and that our future in Christ will be greater than our past. (We receive this by faith) - 2 Cor 5:17**

**Both Isaac and Jacob - were blind when by faith revealed God’s favor and promise – speak that we too are to walk by faith not by sight - 2 Cor 5:7**

**Let’s take a look at the second part of that verse - Hebrews 11:21 By faith Jacob… worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff. (Why mention that?)**

**Refence to a major event in Gen 32 – Jacob running from God and his past (his brother) - God confronted him and literally wrestled w/ Jacob all night.**

**God touched Jacob’s hip causing him to limp the rest of his life. That touch was God’s mercy - could have been worse.**

**That “leaning” in Hebrews is a reference to Jacob’s struggle (needing a staff) and ultimate trust and reliance on God.**

**By Faith Jacob worshiped as he leaned**

**He trusted that God was able to redeem his future even in his pain**

**By Faith Jacob never forgot God’s mercy and touch. He never forgot the struggle he had and God’s faithful intervention.**

**He walked away different after that day – a touch from God will do that. (limp) He walked to his death day – limping.**

**He worshiped as a broken man. An affliction given to him by God. That is faith! Old, losing sight, barely hold self up - what’s he do? Worship!**

**That limp and rod was a reminder of God breaking his will and defiance. Learning to lean and rely on God the rest of his life.**

* **Like Jacob – we must have a breaking of will and learn to leaning and rely on Christ the rod of God – Ps 23.**

**The limp and scars are reminders of the faithfulness of God. I see my metaport scar. Reminds we everyday of God’s mercy to save my life. Many of you have scars – some are not visible – reminders that God is not done with you.**

**Every day we can face the world in faith, w/ God’s faithfulness.**

**Last one today - Hebrews 11:22 By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions concerning the burial of his bones.**

**JOSEPH**

**The sons of Jacob jealous of their father’s favor on Joe – abused, sold. Went from a pit, to Potiphar, to prison, to the palace, to prime minister.**

**God used Joe to save the descendants of Abraham. The family of Jesus. Joe a type of Christ - 2021 series.**

**At the end of his life – the families are all living in Egypt. A famine led them to settle there in Joe’s lifetime. As Joe was dying…**

**Genesis 50:24 Then Joseph said to his brothers, “I am about to die. But God will surely come to your aid and take you up out of this land to the land he promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.” (speaking as a prophet at that moment –of a future deliverance and exodus) And Joseph made the Israelites swear an oath and said, “God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up from this place.”**

**The promise of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob will w/out a doubt happen. Take my bones when you leave. I’m going with you. Of all the great things he did by faith, how is this the greatest?**

**By Faith Joseph gave instructions about his bones**

**He trusted that what God started - God would finish.**

**He knew God would absolutely follow through on all His promises. Speaking from great faith – he knew God is always faithful.**

**He saw what was not there as though it was as good as done. “Don’t leave my bones here when you leave” 300+ yrs later Moses leads them out – Joe’s bones in tow.**

**He knew that what God started - God would finish. The same is true for you in Christ. Philippians 1:6 - being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.**

**For 400 yrs they looked at his coffin and saw the promise of God. He was not to stay in that grave – but be risen to the promise land.**

**A glimpse of our resurrection in Christ.**

**Joseph was thankful for Egypt, but never fell in love with it. He did not want that to the end of his story.**

* **He never fell in love with the provision, but kept his eyes on the promise (you can see how this all fits into the theme of Hebrews)**

**This world has a lot of wonderful things to offer. We can enjoy them - but don’t fall in love with them. They will never satisfy because they were never meant to be the end game. Don’t get too comfortable here.**

**Joseph had so much faith that they would make it to the promised land – he planned his funeral 400 years in advance.**

**\*\*\* Are you planning for the promise land? The kingdom of heaven is the promise land to those in faith in Jesus Christ. Are you prepared?**

**Maybe like Isaac – You need to trust God to care for those you love. That God saves those he calls, we simply tell and leave the rest to God.**

**Maybe like Jacob – You need to trust that in Christ the future is greater than your past. That God is faithful to do what he says.**

**Maybe like Jacob – sometimes we need to be broken in order to truly trust and worship.**

**Maybe you like Joseph - You need to trust God is not finished with you.**

**That the God of our faith is forever faithful!**

**Biblical Faith - is a supernatural trust and assurance in what God says even if you don’t see it or understand it.**

**It sees what others do not see.**

**Hebrews 11:23 By faith Moses’ parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, (KJV – he was a beautiful child) and they were not afraid of the king’s edict. (a parent’s faith in God for their child)**

**MOSES**

**By Faith Moses’ parents hid Moses**

**They trusted and feared God more than the government.**

**The Authorities said – kill the babies. Moses parents said no! Civil disobedience – God’s law overrides man’s laws.**

**They put their life on the line to protect their baby’s life.**

**They had the faith and courage to protect their child.**

**Sometimes we have to make that call…**

**Hebrews 11:24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. 25 He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. 26 He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.**

**By Faith Moses denied his royal position**

**He trusted that God has something better for him than earthly comfort**

**Exodus 1-15 - His parents put him in a basket and placed him in the Nile – he drifted into the pharaohs daughter house and she adopted him. He was raised in royalty and comfort.**

**But when he saw the struggle of his people (Abraham’s descendants) he chose to side with them over the pharaoh’s household. He defended an abused person and killed a man – and found himself disgraced.**

**He saw the promise of the savior (Christ) in the pain of the people. He saw a reward greater than earthly comfort. He trusted God to chart his future rather than money or power.**

**Choosing to leave and forsake wealth for the kingdom. It has consequences – rejection.**

**Sin has its pleasures and living for Christ has its pressures. But sins pleasures are passing and God promise is forever. Even if the trials last our entire earthly life - He saw a greater reward.**

**27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king’s anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.**

**By Faith Moses he left Egypt**

**He trusted that God would protect and provide for him**

**God led Moses to the desert – he met a wife – and became a shepherd.**

**There he encountered God in a burning bush. Theophany. Sent back to Egypt to set the people free from bondage.**

**27 By faith… he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. - I can see pharaoh and those who are against me – and I can’t see God – But I trust in the One I do not see – that is faith defined. God is greater!**

**Hebrews 11:28 By faith he kept the Passover and the application of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.**

**By Faith Moses he kept the Passover**

**He trusted that the sacrifice of the lamb would save Him**

**(Exodus 12) He went back to a new pharaoh who reluctantly relented after 10 plagues. The last being the most significant. The angel of the Lord would take the life of everyone who did put the blood of a lamb on their doors and eat the lamb. All (even Egyptians) who did it lived. When the blood was seen – death passed over them. This was to be celebrated in the yearly holiday called “the Passover”.**

**Jesus is that Passover lamb – that applied to the door of our heart – we are saved. By faith – the blood saves!**

**Hebrews 11:29 By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.**

**Pharaoh angry and in pain after this – tells Moses and the descendants of Abraham (known as the Israelites) to leave. So, they pick up and run out! Then Pharoah decides to hunt them down. Leading a great army to kill them. (Exodus 12-14)**

**The Israelites look up – and see mighty war chariots coming! Trapped against the Red Sea. They looked at Moses and said – I guess there were not enough graves in Egypt to brough us here to die!**

**Exodus 14:13 Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. 14 The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.” 15 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. 16 Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground.**

**The LORD tells Moses that Pharaoh and his armies will pursue them into the sea. Pharaoh lifted his staff and the sea parted, and armies chased them into the sea just as the LORD said.**

**26 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen.” 27 Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the Lord swept them into the sea. 28 The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen—the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.**

**Hebrews 11:29 By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.**

**The difference between the Israelites and the Egyptian armies was not courage – but faith in the LORD.**

**They both had courage and acted bravely – but trusted in themselves the other in the LORD.**

**By Faith the people passed through on dry land**

**They trusted that God would ultimately take care of them**

**I am reminded of the song of David - Psalm 20:6 Now I know that the LORD saves His anointed; He answers him from His holy heaven with the saving power of His right hand. 7 Some trust in chariots and others in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.**

* **Do I see the chariots or do I look to what I know God can do, but don’t see now?**

**My current trust of faith – can I be honest with you all? The church finances are a daily trust of faith – as I don’t know how we are monthly going to make but we do.**

**Jesus the rod / staff of God -**