**Greater Than All - wk 17 – Faith Road Trip – Pt 4**

**We are on a magic mystery tour – get in the car and trust the driver – examples of trusting God - 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 (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, vibe, absence of fear / doubt. It is not risk taking & blind leaps.**

**Faith is Trusting God enough to do what he says.**

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

**So far - Abe, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph – their highlight reels of faith. Today the 2nd most famous person in the Bible…**

**MOSES (Moshe in Hebrew)**

**Israeli adopted grandson of a king who went from royalty in pharaohs house to a shepherd in the field - to a great deliver and law giver.**

**Who has seen a movie about Moses? Most know about the 10 commandments the red sea crossing. Immortalized in Movies… but most fudge the story.**

**Hebrews points out the highlights of Moses faith – there are a lot, but we only get 4 big ones – but first his parents. 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 – something special about him) and they were not afraid of the king’s edict. (they trusted God had something special for him – and they were not fearful of the govt.)**

**A parent’s faith in God for their child – God uses faithful faith filled parents to shape great people – you have heard of Moses – have you heard of Jochebed and Amram? Both were Levites.**

**By Faith Moses’ parents hid him**

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

**The Authorities said, “kill the babies.” (population control) Moses parents said no! This is a child God created with purpose.**

**We are to obey the laws of the land (Rom 13) unless they tell us to disobey God. Example of civil disobedience. Gods laws over mans.**

**Acts 5:29 Peter and the Apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men.” (better make sure God says it – not our preferences – God told me I can’t drive 55!)**

**They put their life on the line to protect their baby’s life. They had the faith and courage to follow God and protect their child.**

**They said we will not conform. Sometimes we have to make that call. Biblically the days will grow evil. We are to be wise & gracious, but not to conform.**

**They were ordinary parents who loved the LORD God and loved their child enough to defy the king of Egypt. In God’s providence – their son became one of the greatest leaders and prophets in all of history.**

**Mom / Dad – your simple faithful consistent trust in God and godly convictions are never without results. A Moses might be living in your house.**

**Hebrews 11:24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, (40 years old) 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. (at some point – we have to decide who we identify with – a line is drawn – who do you stand with?) 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, comfort, luxury, ease, wealth & power.**

**A perfect position and a bright future. What else could you want?**

**But he saw the struggle of his people (Abe’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 and a fugitive.**

**He saw the promise of the savior (Christ) in the pain of the people. Risking his life to save another. He trusted God to chart his future rather than prosperity. He walked away from power.**

**Choosing to forsake wealth for God’s purpose. It seemed he was throwing away his life. Following God has consequences – rejection, ridicule, being misunderstood.**

**\*\*To follow Jesus is not for the weak. Ask the disciples…**

**Sin has its pleasures and living for Christ has its pressures.**

**Sin is absolutely fun – but it also fleeting and leaves you empty.**

**Sins pleasures are passing, and God promises are forever.**

**A brief lifetime of sin vs. an eternity with God. That’s why what you believe about eternity determines your life now and the next.**

**Even if the trials last Moses entire earthly life, he saw a greater reward – beyond this life – so he embraced the afflictions.**

**\*\* Similarly, Christ left a throne – to face affliction and rejection for you to become our deliver. We were his reward and joy. Hebrews 12:2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross…**

**Hebrews 11 is going order of Moses life - Hebrews 11:27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king’s anger; (to tell his family – I must follow God. King angered and disgraced him) he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.**

**By Faith Moses left Egypt (walked away from his past into unknown)**

**He trusted and followed God, not his emotions and feelings**

**He left trusting God would take of him and provide for him.**

**God led Moses to wilderness, he met a wife and became a shepherd (became faithful and a servant) It was after many years that God appeared in a burning bush. Theophany. Now 40 yrs later, God sends him back to Egypt to set the people free from Egyptian bondage.**

**27 By faith… he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.**

**I can see pharaoh and those against me – and I can’t see God – but I trust in the One I do not see = faith defined.**

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

**This the purpose of this letter - those who truly know God, persevere. Beyond feelings and goosebumps, beyond emotions and mountaintop moments, this is knowing even if you don’t see or feel God - you trust God and persevere. “But God I need a sign- vision- voice.” God says I already gave you one, Jesus - and this is his primary voice (Bible)**

**Next - Hebrews 11:28 By faith he kept the Passover and the application of blood, so that the destroyer (bringer of death( 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 11-12) He went back to Egypt, to a new pharaoh who reluctantly relented after 10 plagues. The last plague being the most severe and significant.**

**The angel of the Lord will take the life of everyone who’s house does not eat a whole lamb and put the blood of a lamb on their doors. All (even Egyptians) who did it lived. When the blood was seen – death and judgement passed over them. This was to be celebrated and remembered in the yearly holiday - “the Passover”.**

**\*\* Jesus is that Passover lamb – when applied to the door of our heart – we are saved. By faith – the blood saves! God was giving us in that moment a picture of Jesus who was to come.**

**One more reel - 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 personal pain tells Moses and the descendants of Abe (known as the Israelites) to leave. So, they pick up and run! Estimated 1-2 million people. Pharoah then decides to hunt them down and kill them - leading a great army in pursuit. (Exodus 13-14)**

**The Israelites look up and see hundreds of chariots! Trapped against the Red Sea. They look at Moses and say (God will take care of us – no) I guess there were not enough graves in Egypt – you brought us here to die! We told you - leave us alone!!**

**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.**

**Love that – you know what you need to do. Do it. Stop asking for what you already know to do. Take the step of faith.**

**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 rod and staff of God – God asks Moses what is in your hand? ordinary staff (Ex 4) Throw it down. It become a snake – always rep Satan and sin. God says pick it up – become a rod again. God says this is mine now (Ex 4:20 – Moses took the Staff of God in his hand) Satan is not in control.**

**God asks us – what is in your hand – throw it down. Let it go, now, pick it up – it’s mine now. Now, watch what I can do with it. Moses says I can’t talk – I am not the one. Watch me.**

**The rod / staff - shows up again and again as the presence and power of God with Moses. A type of Jesus. (Ps 23) to guide, protect, empower, and bring water from rock. It represented the authority of God. At times it was provision and other times it was judgement. It was both corrective and protective.**

**I am reminded of - If I be lifted up, I will draw all men… John 12:32**

**Speaking of the cross that saves us from our sin. Jesus the rod of God who became sin has power over Satan.**

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

**EX 14:26 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea (with the rod in hand) 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.**

**Highlight reel - Heb 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.**

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

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

**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 one trusted in themselves the other in the LORD.**

**Faith in the LORD through Jesus leads to boldness and confidence.**

**Faith in the LORD overrides our fear. Christ is greater than our fear!**

**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 see what God can do, even if it is invisible – even if the circumstance says differently.**

**What was Moses’ reward? A desert with a bunch of negative people. His earthly reward was - walking in the will of God – God’s presence.**

**And the hope of a heavenly kingdom fulfilled through Jesus Christ.**

**Interestingly what is not mentioned is what he is most known for - the law. No mention of Mt. Sinai or the 10 commandments. That is because faith that pleases God is absent the law.**

**We see again and again in todays examples of faith – a line is drawn. A decision is made to stand in the face of opposition – to not quit or back down to external pressures.**

**Govt pressure – cultural pressure – financial pressure – the pressure of our past – the pressure to go back – the pressure of fear and being cornered.**

* **By faith Moses parents did not conform**
* **By faith Moses walked away from a promising future**
* **By faith Moses followed God not the crowd or his emotions**
* **By faith Moses trusted in the blood of the lamb of God**
* **By faith they walked in the sea – and saw God fight their battle**

**Those in Christ - stand in faith in the LORD**

**I want to end with this passage from today – someone needs this.**

**Exodus 14:14 The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.”**

**My current trust of faith – can I be honest with you all?**