

Faith That Crosses and Crumbles

Introduction and Review

- ❑ Last week we looked at believers facing their fears by faith Heb. 11:20-22.
- ❑ We learned from Moses & his parent how to face the threat of evil authorities in faith without fear (v. 23, 27).
- ❑ We learned from Moses that faith does not compromise for worldly pleasures by: Refusing (v. 24), Choosing (v. 25), Considering (v. 26), and Keeping (v. 28).
- ❑ Even though our text only emphasizes the role of faith in facing fear, we were reminded in bible study that this faith must come from a **loving relationship** with God our Father (1Jn. 4:18). Biblical faith and love cannot be separated.

I. Faith Outside the Promised Land (v. 29)

A. Initial fear in a crisis (Ex. 14:10-12)

The initial reaction of the people of God was not faith but fear; not thanksgiving but complaint; not support of Moses but doubt. They blamed Moses & God for their problems. Crisis can bring out some awful thoughts, words & actions from believers – Job, Jonah, disciples in storm, Mark with Paul, Peter, etc. Initial response may not indicate the true condition of the heart because fearful emotions can dominate the thinking of any believer in a crisis.

B. Abiding faith in crossing

God knows how to stir up faith in believers & bring people to obedience. People need encouragement to be courageous when facing danger (Ex. 14:13-14). God may use a person, an angel (Lk. 1:30) or speak Himself (Jer. 1:8; Ac. 18:9). The HS uses the word of God to stir up faith in believers who love Jesus (Rom. 10:17; 2Pe. 1:13). God's people crossed the Red Sea & the Egyptians drowned. Both events were the result of a miracle & both bring glory to God!

When believers are in danger by the will of God, they should look for deliverance by the power of God (Lk. 8:22-25).

II. Faith Inside the Promised Land

A. Impossible walls fall down (v. 30)

*The generation of people that crossed the Red Sea would not obey in faith & enter the Promised Land – cannot live on past faithfulness. This is a new generation in the PL with a faithful remnant from the old – Joshua & others. **They were facing an enemy that was impossible to defeat naturally (massive walls designed to be impregnable in war).** Israel had no natural weapon against Jericho, but God told them the way to win (Jos. 6:1-5). **God's way may appear to be foolishness to the world (Is. 55:8-9).** **God expected not just one man & his family, but the entire nation of Israel to trust & obey Him.** When they willingly & courageously obeyed God, **He brought down** the walls of impossibility for them (Jn. 14:15; 2Chr. 20:15; Ps. 24:8).*

B. Impossible sinners are saved (v. 31)

*Rahab was known for a sinful lifestyle of sexual immorality – “Rahab the prostitute”. Like the rest of Jericho, she was a Gentile & Amorite (wicked race of people). Like the rest of Jericho, she heard what God had done for & through Israel. But while the rest of Jericho rejected God in disobedience, Rahab believed that God was going to defeat Jericho. So Rahab put her trust in the Lord for deliverance (Jos. 2:1-14). She was an unlikely & impossible candidate for salvation by human nature – woman, Gentile, prostitute (Mt. 19:26; 1Co. 1:26-31; 6:9-11). **The gospel also appears to be foolishness to the world (1Co. 1:18-21).***

Thank God your gender, race, sinful past, culture, geographic location or no other factor hinders the Lord from saving sinners. This amazing grace & mercy....

CONCLUSION

So then my brothers & sisters it's time for you to personally think about what you have learned from the people of Israel & Rahab today. Are you aware of any serious situation in your life where your emotions dominate your thinking & keep you from obeying God – worry, fear, doubts, unbelief? Because you are a Christian, Jesus has given you the HS with unlimited power, His word to guide you, His grace for obedience & this word of encouragement – “do not be anxious about your life...” and “Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid”. Be encouraged because past failures DO NOT dictate your future in Christ by faith! Are you facing a wall of difficulty that seems impossible for you to resolve – family, job, school, body, etc.? The Lord expects you to trust Him completely & obey the scriptures even when it appears to be simplistic or even foolish when compared to your impossibility!

If you are not a Christian, then you should learn from Rahab that the Lord can save anybody, anywhere, anytime regardless of your past or present situation. Learn from Rahab & believe in Jesus now before destruction comes. Believe Jesus right now regardless of what other people do. Only believe...

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