

Better than Your Legacy

Hebrews 11

This Semester, we're studying the book of Hebrews to better understand Who Jesus is and What He's done. What we will find is that Jesus is better than anything our world has to offer. This week, the author explains how a living faith in Jesus Christ creates the greatest Legacy we could ever hope to leave.

Read: Hebrews 11.1-4

The Truth is...

- We've all had someone influence our lives in powerful ways
- On some level we all want our life to be remembered: our name on a bench or our face on a wall, but is that really the best we can do? As believers, what legacy should we seek to leave?

This Semester...

- We're studying the book of Hebrews to better understand Who Jesus is and What He's done. Our world tells us we deserve "The Best" so we try to be "The Best" or we try to know "What's Best." But Hebrews tells us that no matter what anyone thinks, says, or does, Jesus is Better.

This Morning...

- We're in Hebrews 11 where the author explains that the greatest legacy is created by a **living faith in Jesus Christ** because Jesus is better than any legacy we can create on our own

Remember Context to understand Content

- **Audience:** 60s AD **Jewish Believers** facing persecution – these are people of faith
- **Passage:** We've seen how Jesus is better than idols, identities, heroes, failures, etc. The author has been pushing the audience to hold fast to their faith – so it makes sense to define what that is...

What is Faith?

- **Read: Heb 11.1** - The Bible describes faith as an **Assurance** and a **Conviction** – not "it could happen" but "it will happen"
 - The Greek term for faith is "**πίστις**" – which is used to create the image of someone "standing under" the belief
- **Read: Heb 11.3** - Our faith isn't blind foolishness, it's rational! Grounded in the proven faithfulness of God!
 - God calls Himself **God of Abraham/Isaac/Jacob** to display faithfulness - when calling those to faith, He reminds them that **He is faithful**
- **Faith is rooted in the past and creates a present confidence in the future**

Where do we see Faith?

- This faith is so certain, you generally don't even think about, but you subconsciously place this faith in all kinds of stuff
- I know this because of how you act – **Belief determines Behavior**
- **Read: Rom 1.17** – Paul recognizes that **Belief determines Behavior** - God's righteousness is revealed **From faith To faith**
 - In other words, we get to see the righteousness of God more and more from our saving faith moment of conversion to our continued, daily, living faith in Jesus Christ
 - This is why we use – **Justification** and **Sanctification**

Justification

- Justification is the **legal idea** that I am standing before a judge and He **declares me Righteous** – even though I'm not

- This is only possible because of Jesus Christ who is the subject of Habakkuk 2.4 as the righteous man, or is the object of the righteous man's faith

Sanctification

- Sanctification is the **life-long process** from broken to whole that every Christian walks through whether they realize it or not
 - **Westminster Shorter Catechism** (English Reformation, 1647) says Sanctification is the process by which we “**are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.**”
 - This doesn’t mean sin will disappear, but it does mean that we can **improve in the way we face and fight sin**
- This second, “**Living**” Faith fuels our **Sanctification/growth**
 - This is what the author talked about in **Heb 6** – perpetual immaturity can lead to **God removing the opportunity for growth** and making space for someone else
 - **Ex:** Daughter is 4 months old, I couldn’t just put her on a shelf and promise to hang out next week
 - This is why James tells us that “**faith without works is dead**” –he’s talking about our living faith
 - How do we know if we have this living faith?

Where do we place our Faith?

- **Look at our actions** – do we **trust God** to care for us or do we **scramble around** for comfort and satisfaction here? (certain major, organization, GPA, boyfriend/girlfriend, etc)
 - The truth is, even if we find satisfaction for a short while, they will always disappoint – **Faith is only as great as its Object**
 - That major might not work out, that organization will end, that GPA won’t matter, and that relationship will end
- **Read: Heb 11.2,4 – Ultimately, it’s our Living Faith that creates the greatest Legacy**
 - **Ex: Mufasa** believed in the Circle of Life & the role of King
 - **Hebrews 11** is filled with men and women who not only demonstrate faith, but impart it to the next generation

Application

- **Seniors and Parents** – take a **Grace Legacy card** as a reminder to give your time in prayer; consider giving financially
- **Students** – you’re still laying the foundation of your legacy, is it one of **faith in God?**

Prayer

- **Partner:** Share **where it’s difficult to trust the Lord**
- **Solo:** Pray for the **opportunity to encourage someone’s faith or to share your faith with an unbeliever**