

CAN ORDINARY PEOPLE PLEASE GOD?

Heb 11 (S.R. Heb 11:1-6)

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Faith ought not be some superficial optimism.
- B. Some think that only elders and preachers can have that kind of faith.
- C. Faith is available to the ordinary citizen of heaven whose daily lives are taken up with hearing the cries of babies, the hum of a computer and the roar of crowded highways
- D. Our study is in Hebrews chapter 11.

DISCUSSION:

I. TAKING A LOOK AT FAITH:

- A. The context of chapter 11 begins in 10:32-36.
- B. Chapter 11 is an encouragement to these Christians.
- C. The theme of chapter 11 is the importance of enduring faith.
- D. God doesn't want His children to shrink back during times of difficulty.

II. FAITH...AS IT RELATES TO PEOPLE:

- A. What is your view of Hebrews 11?
 - 1. "Those are great people, they accomplished great things, but I'm not that type.
 - 2. I can't accomplish those same kind of things."
- B. If that sounds familiar remember: GOD HAS NO SPECIFIC TYPE
- C. For example:
 - 1. Abel was just an ordinary herdsman, a "keeper of flocks" and he never preached in a pulpit Gen. 4:2
 - 2. Noah was a farmer who took up ship-building for about 120 years. Gen 5:29; 6:3, 8, 14-16, 22; 9:20
 - 3. Sarah -- a homemaker. Gen 18:1-9
 - 4. Joseph -- favorite son, slave, prisoner, prime minister. Gen 37:28; 39:1,20; 41:41-44
 - 5. Moses -- shepherd. Ex 2:16-21; 3:1
 - 6. David -- shepherd, songwriter, outlaw, and king 1Sam 16:11-13, 19; 17:15 Psa 3:1; 1Sam 18:7-11; 2Sam 2:4
- D. Most of these people had common, ordinary, even undesirable backgrounds and yet they learned to live by faith.

III. FAITH...AS IT RELATES TO CIRCUMSTANCES:

- A. It should be clear that ordinary people can live extraordinary lives of faith.
- B. It wasn't Moses' background, Noah's skill, Sarah's age, Rahab's reputation that placed them in Heb 11.

- C. It was their enduring faith -- the kind of faith that illustrates how we must trust in God.

IV. FAITH...AS IT RELATES TO GOD:

- A. Faith brings God pleasure Heb 11:6
- B. God supports those who follow Him 2Chron 16:9
- C. Our faith also gives Him honor Heb 11:16
- D. We cannot please God without faith Heb 11:6

V. FAITH...AS IT RELATES TO YOU:

- A. We must have the enduring faith that people of Hebrews 11 had
- B. When we have this kind of enduring faith, God will in His own time place us on display as He did Abel (vs. 4), Enoch (vs. 5), and Noah (vs. 7).
- C. No, it may not be in this life. These were not recognized in their own time, but in God's time
- D. This is kind of faith that results in salvation Rom 1:17; Gal 3:9; 26

CONCLUSION:

- A. From time we were babies we were told of "Happily ever after" endings
- B. Yet, the older we get the more life has a tendency of knocking that nonsense right out of us.
 - 1. Think about those examples in Hebrews 11 who were sawn in two, tortured, stoned, and forced to live like animals in caves.
 - 2. Yet, there was and will be "Happily ever after" endings (Note Heb 6:12)
- C. Men and women "of whom the world was not worthy" (vs. 38).
- D. A healed leg certainly glorified God, but so does the unbroken faith of the individual whose leg is still crooked.
- E. Are you daily, exercising dependent trust in spite of results right now?
 - 1. Have all signs of the Savior's care and concern been removed from our world, and yet you're still believing?
 - a. You are demonstrating a deep, genuine faith.
 - b. One that pleases God and brings honor to His name.
 - c. You are one of the world's true heroes, a man or a woman of whom the world is not worthy.
 - 2. May God help us to have the kind of faith that is discussed in Heb chapter 11

(By Steve Cundiff revised by JLH)