

Hebrews 11:30-32

## Faith that Risks All

vs.30- "By faith"- it is interesting to note that the entire 40 years of wandering is completely passed over (nothing in those years was worth mentioning in a chapter on faith)

Truth- it wasn't until Israel came to Jericho did they once again demonstrate faith

\*Remember- it was a lack of faith that led to the 40 years of wandering (Num.13-14)

- the Bible shows us how faith shows in 4 different instances

1- a faith that receives (when we come empty-handed to Christ for salvation)

2- a faith that reckons (this counts on God to undertake for us)

3- a faith that rests (this gives us confidence in the midst of afflictions or trials)

4- a faith that risks (this moves on God's power and dares us to do the impossible)

(\*for us, all these must follow the 1<sup>st</sup>)

- by the time they get to Jericho, their faith begins to flourish

\*Notice that Joshua, Caleb, or even Israel is not mentioned here- only their faith

(This verse gives credit where credit is due)

- Jericho was the largest city in Canaan and by human perspective, it was impossible to conquer

(For land to be claimed, it had to be conquered)

\*Look at Deut.1:28-30 (How could they conquer the unconquerable? By faith that risks)

\*God wanted to show all that He is with His people and all He wanted from them was faith

- according to Joshua 6, they marched around the city one time a day for the first 6 days and 7 times on the 7<sup>th</sup> day- when the priests blew the trumpet and people shouted, the walls fell

Truth- if the people hadn't trusted God at His Word, they would have never conquered Jericho

vs.31- Rahab- a prostitute is definitely an unlikely candidate for the "Hall of Faith" chapter

(She was also a Gentile, Canaanite, and Amorite)

-in Josh.2, Rahab tells the Hebrew spies that all of Canaan knew that Israel was coming and

knew Israel's God was more powerful than anything

\*one must look closely to what Rahab says in Josh.2:9-11

(She knew Israel's God was God and she knew that He told His people to take the land)

Truth- she believed what God had said

- she hid the spies because she believed what God had said was true

(If she had been caught hiding the spies, she would have been killed)

\*so, what is so significant about Rahab? Matt.1:5-6 (she is of the lineage of Christ)

vs.32- the writer basically states here that he could go on and on but has made his point

\*each of these men listed held positions of power and authority but are not recognized

for their status or ability (they are commended for their faith even though they all had flaws)

- Gideon- led 300 into battle and got rid of his father's idols

(Also made an ephod of gold taken from the Midianites- a snare)

- he refused to be king but named his son Abimelech (meaning "my father is king") false humility

- Barak- ordered around by a woman and even said he wouldn't go after Sisera unless Deborah was with him (had more confidence in a person- but defeated Sisera, leader of the Canaanites)

- Samson- defeated 1,000 Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey (disregarded his vows to God)

- Jephthae- delivered Israel from the Ammonites (vowed to sacrifice his own daughter)

- Samuel- the prophet, priest, and judge that tried to make his ungodly sons judges

Truth- they are not remembered here for their flaws, they are commended for their faith

(They sinned, were imperfect, and sometimes failed, yet they accomplished these feats by having a faith in God that caused them to risk everything)

\*they stand as examples of remarkable trust in God

\* Proverbs 24:16 - its not if you fall down, its if you get back up- its faith that picks us back up