

FAITH FOR A FUTURE REWARD

DATE: SUNDAY, 28TH OF NOVEMBER 2021 | FAITH SERIES: PART 4

HEBREWS 11:26,27

He [Moses] 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 he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; **he persevered because he saw Him who is invisible.**

HEBREWS 12:2,3

For the joy that was set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

NOTES FOR LEADERS:

1. This is our last LifeGroup resource for 2021. We will kick off again with our Engage series in January 2022.
2. Please keep an eye out for our announcements about our Carols and Christmas services. We have plans in place should a change in Covid regulations impact the size of our in-person meetings.

START TALKING

1. What were you challenged or inspired by in Sunday's message?
2. What hero of the faith were you most inspired by in Hebrews 11? What have you learned from them?

START THINKING

1. Read Hebrews 11:26,27. What is the relationship between faith and perseverance?
2. Read Hebrews 12:2,3. What was the "joy set before Jesus"? What kind of opposition do you think He faced? How can we apply what Jesus modelled in our lives?

START SHARING

1. Steve said that courageous people change their perspective and change their language. By nature, are you someone who sees the glass half full or half-empty?! How have you learned to change your perspective and language to be more courageous and faith-filled?
2. On Sunday, we heard that courageous people understand their 'WHY' (see notes). Who is someone that you know who has their "why" figured out? What about them inspires you? How can we apply that in our lives?

START PRAYING

Spend some time giving "popcorn style" prayers of thanksgiving to God for everything he has done in your lives this year.

START DOING

This week start reframing your language around problems - start seeing them as opportunities and notice how your mindset starts to change!

SUMMARY

OF SUNDAY'S MESSAGE

This Sunday, in the final week of our Faith series, Steve shared a message on faith for a future reward. Moses sets an example for this, which the writer of Hebrews looks at in Hebrews 11:26,27: *He [Moses] 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 he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.

Last week, Jax spoke about Moses's birth and childhood. He should have been killed as a baby because of his cultural background, and yet miraculously, he was saved and ended up being raised by Pharaoh's daughter in the palace of Egypt (which was a world superpower at that time).

At age 40, he started to feel a stirring in his heart to do something to help his people. But he went about it completely the wrong way, and things ended up going really badly, and he killed a man, and he had to flee for his life!

He then spent 40 years in the desert, and then very reluctantly, he was sent back by God at the age of 80, and this time did what God had told him to. He ended up leading the Israelites out of Egypt on one of the toughest assignments in the history of the Bible.

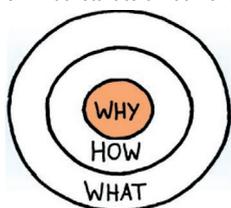
The writer of Hebrews contrasts the life Moses could have had with the life he chose - a prince in Egypt vs following God's directions and becoming an outcast visionary. Moses chose courage over comfort! We have the same choice every single day: do we live as we please, or do we have the courage to follow Christ?

The author of Hebrews is writing to believers who had grown tired and weary in their faith and wanted to give up. He urges them (and us) not to give up but to choose courageous, faith-filled living!

What does it mean to have courageous faith?

1. Courageous people understand their WHY

Simon Sinek, an expert in organisational leadership, puts forward the idea of understanding your "why". He says that if you don't have your "why" (your purpose) figured out, then your "how" (process) and "what" (outcomes) don't work out. The same is true for our lives. If we don't have the "why" pinned down, then the "how" and the "what" start to drift all over the place.



Moses understood his "why": *...he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.* Hebrews 11:27. Do we understand our "why"? Are we fixing our eyes on Jesus or just drifting all over the place? Do we see the invisible?

The writer of Hebrews says of Jesus: *For the joy that was set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.* Hebrews 12:2,3. He is exhorting us to follow the example of Christ. He is not only our reward but also our model.

2. Courageous people have changed their perspective

...because he was looking ahead to his reward. Hebrews 11:26. Moses was looking ahead to his reward.

Looking to circumstances and other people - drains your courage!

An earthly example of this would be saving some money every month towards a future goal or towards your retirement - "I am sacrificing today because of a future reward." How much more so when living by faith: "I am sacrificing in this life because of a future payday - an eternal one." Let's keep looking ahead. Let's keep living by faith. At the end of Hebrews 11, the writer tells us that all the examples he has listed were living by faith when they died.

3. Courageous people change their language

Don't deny reality, but frame it. The people that Moses was leading were perfect examples of how not to live faith-filled courageous lives. Their language constantly let them down - they were a bunch of moaners and groaners, whiners and complainers. And God was constantly angry with them - after all the amazing things He had done, they still complained! Now here's the scary thing... many Christians today suffer exactly the same problem.

It can be as simple as reframing our language, e.g. instead of referring to issues as "problems", start calling them "opportunities". It's interesting how a language change can help a mindset change, i.e. "This is the reality, BUT God is still looking out for me."

We celebrate courage:

- For every 'No' you've said to wrongdoing in the face of pressure from yourself and others.
- For every 'Yes' you've said to doing things God's way
- For obeying God and doing the right thing even when no one was watching
- For choosing faith-filled courage ahead of comfort
- For loving others even when they haven't always loved you back
- For being generous with your time, talents and earthly treasures
- For living a life of perseverance and faith
- For taking the next step and keeping on keeping on even when you felt like giving up
- For living a God-glorifying life at work even when others haven't understood
- To every boy and girl who chooses to follow God at school and set an example for others
- To every parent who is doing their best to raise their children in the ways of God (even when your children don't always appreciate it!)
- To moms and dad's with babies who courageously are still getting out of their homes to be part of their church community
- To every grandfather and grandmother who faithfully pray for their families
- For living by faith and trust because you see the invisible One and because you know that your future reward far outweighs it all!

Above all, thank You to our Lord Jesus Christ for keeping us and holding us and giving us the strength and courage to keep following Him every single day!

In closing, Steve shared the story of Henry Morrison and his wife. They were a couple who had worked for many years abroad in the mission field and were returning to New York City to retire. They discovered they were on the same ship as President Teddy Roosevelt, who was returning from a big game hunting expedition.

When the ship docked, there were crowds to greet President Roosevelt, but no one to greet the elderly couple. That night Henry felt very discouraged and said to his wife, "after all these years of serving the Lord faithfully, there are big crowds to greet the president, but not a single person to welcome us home."

His wife suggested he talk to God about it. A while later, he came out of his room, and his face looked very different. His wife asked him what had happened. He told her: "It was as if the Lord put His hand on my shoulder and reminded me that we are not home yet!"