

# HEROES OF FAITH

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These all died in faith,  
not having received the promises,  
but having seen them afar off,  
and were persuaded of them,  
and embraced them,  
and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims  
on the earth.

For they that say such things  
declare plainly that they seek a country.

And truly,  
if they had been mindful of that country  
from whence they came out,  
they might have had opportunity to have returned.

But now they desire a better country,  
that is, an heavenly:  
wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God:  
for he hath prepared for them a city.

(Hebrews 11:13-16)

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## About this Study

This is a study of Hebrews 11 and the characters that God has chosen to highlight as being examples worthy for us to follow. This chapter is widely known as “the heroes of faith” chapter.

The word *hero* is defined as “*A man distinguished for courage or ability, admired for his brave deeds and noble qualities*”. Every society and every generation has its heroes. Conflicts and/or difficult circumstances will arise from one source or another. Heroes are the individuals who step forward to conquer those obstacles.

In our generation society has chosen to make sports athletes, celebrities and the extremely wealthy their heroes. Young people look up to movie stars and music performers and hold them in high esteem. They endeavor to copy them in their clothing choices and actions. But we know the heroes of today have a glory that is temporary.

Society’s heroes are not chosen because of character nor for their faith. They are chosen for their personal abilities to gratify sensual lusts, impress with personality, or amaze with great physical feats.

When God chooses a hero, He chooses by a different standard. This standard is faith. *Faith* is defined in one Bible dictionary as *the general persuasion of the mind that a certain statement is true. Its primary element is trust.*

God is the One who makes these statements that require faith. From a natural or worldly standpoint His statements make no sense at all. This happened throughout the Old Testament and the heroes we will study often received direct revelation as to how they should respond. In the New Testament these statements that we must choose to believe in spite of our natural inclinations are truths taught by Jesus and the Apostles.

*Heroes of Faith* is a study of ordinary men and women like you and I who faced circumstances like we face and made their choices in light of eternity. They did not make their choices in light of what was convenient or popular at the moment.

Many times true heroes are not recognized in their immediate generation. Their courage and vision are not appreciated until they are off the scenes. They often were ridiculed, even persecuted by their own people. It is not unusual that the people who hated them the most were religious but were following current norms or had learned how to adapt their religion to make room for their carnal lifestyle.

Be advised! Following the examples given in this study will begin a

war in your experience. First the war will begin between you and your own flesh. You will need to deny the urges and impulses that well up within your own being, and the war won’t stop there. This war will spread to drive a sword through relationships you may have with any other person who refuses to be a person of faith. People naturally dislike any person who is living in a way that condemns their own choices and actions.

There is a need for true humility if you are going to find your balance in the path of being a hero of faith. Some are contentious over things that have no real purpose. They champion causes so they can prove they are more important than other persons. We learn this from the verse, “For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.” (1Co 11:19)

Others battle with a feeling that it must be pride if you stand for truth and end up having opposition. “Who am I to think that I understand the Bible when others read it and don’t come up with these conclusions?” It is a false humility that causes you to avoid conflict when you know what is right and it is based on God’s Word.

We live in a day that calls for Heroes of Faith more than ever. “For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end *is* destruction, whose God *is* their belly, and *whose* glory *is* in their shame, who mind earthly things.” (Php 3:18-19) If we should choose to live in such a way so we avoid conflict with these people, we will never be heroes of faith.

# LESSON 1

## FAITH DEFINED AND DEVELOPED

**Lesson Aim** - To allow the Scriptures to teach us the importance of faith and how works are an essential element of living faith.

### Lesson Text and Bible Study Questions

#### Hebrews 10:38-11:3

38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

2 For by it the elders obtained a good report.

3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

1. How does God feel toward those who return to life of worldliness after living by faith?

2. What are the long term results of unbelief? Of true faith?

3. How does faith answer the question of where the universe came from?

#### Hebrews 11:6

6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

4. What two things does a person need to believe before he can come to God?

5. Who does God reward?

#### James 2:5

5 Harken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

#### James 2:14-26

14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was

faith made perfect?

23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

25 Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?

26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

8. What illustration does James use to describe the foolishness of professing faith without having works to accompany the faith?

9. In what way can it be said that the devils have faith?

10. What "work" did Abraham do that fulfilled the scripture and made him worthy to be called the friend of God?

## Questions for Thought and Discussion

11. How would you define the word "hero"? Who is a hero of faith?

12. How might a hero in God's sight be different than a hero in the eyes of society?

13. Can a person have faith but not have works? Explain.

14. How can faith become dead?

15. Are works always dead? Explain.

16. What is the relationship between faith and our feelings?

17. Which is easier to lose, faith or works?

18. How can Jesus' disciples today help each other become strong in faith?

19. How might what one person calls faith be viewed by another as being presumption? What characteristics would differentiate between the two?

## LESSON 2

### HEROES OF WORSHIP — ABEL AND ENOCH

**Lesson Aim** - To learn what it means to worship in a way that is acceptable to God.

#### Lesson Text and Bible Study Questions

##### Genesis 4:1-8

1 And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.

2 And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

3 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.

4 And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

5 But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

6 And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy

countenance fallen?

7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee *shall be* his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

8 And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

##### Hebrews 11:4

4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

##### 1 John 3:12

12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him?

Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

1. Compare Abel's sacrifice with Cain's. What are the similarities?

2. What did Abel's offering contain that Cain's lacked?

3. What attitude did Abel reveal through his sacrifice?

4. Why did Abel become the object of Cain's anger and frustration?

5. How does Abel's life continue to speak to us today even though Abel is dead?

##### Genesis 5:21-24

21 And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah:

22 And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters:

23 And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years:

24 And Enoch walked with God:

and he was not; for God took him.

##### Hebrews 11:5

5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

##### Jude 1:14-15

14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

15 To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”

6. What do you think Enoch actually did as he walked with God?

7. How is Enoch a type of the blessed hope the Christian is looking forward to today? (See Luke 21:36)

8. Of what future event was Enoch convinced?

## Questions for Thought and Discussion

9. *Explain why it takes a living faith in order to experience genuine worship.*

10. *What can those who seek to obtain favor from God expect to receive from this world? Why?*

11. *In what ways might God have given Abel witness that he was righteous?*

12. *Why would it be wrong to blame Abel for the attitude Cain had toward him?*

13. *Is it possible that we may act in such a way that we could make it harder for sincere brothers and sisters to appreciate us and make right choices? Give some examples.*

14. *Is outward expression of worship (singing praise songs etc.) a proof of true worship? Explain your answer.*

15. *What can be done to make congregational worship more meaningful?*

16. *What can we do to make our private worship more meaningful?*

# LESSON 3

## HEROES OF OBEDIENCE — NOAH AND ABRAHAM

**Lesson Aim** - To teach us the importance of being ready to obey God without faltering.

### Lesson Text and Bible Study Questions

#### Genesis 6:9

5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.

6 And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

7 And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

9 These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.

#### Genesis 6:11-14

11 The earth also was corrupt

before God, and the earth was filled with violence.

12 And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.

13 And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

14 Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.

#### Genesis 6:17-18

17 And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die.

18 But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come

into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee.

#### Genesis 6:21-22

21 And take thou unto thee of all food that is eaten, and thou shalt gather it to thee; and it shall be for food for thee, and for them.

22 Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.

#### Hebrews 11:7

7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

1. Describe the conditions of society in Noah's time.

2. Why did Noah find grace in the eyes of the Lord?

3. How did Noah's faith and obedience condemn the world?

4. What are some obstacles that Noah faced that would have made obedience difficult?

5. What were the fruits and rewards of Noah's faith?

#### Genesis 12:1-4

1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

4 So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.

#### Genesis 12:7

7 And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.

#### Hebrews 11:8-10

8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

9 By faith he sojourned in the land

of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

6. *Find the six promises God gave Abram if he obeyed Him.*

7. *How many of these did Abram receive in his lifetime?*

8. *What worship practices did Abram observe that helped keep his faith alive?*

9. *When Abram arrived in Canaan, what happened that would have been a test to his faith? (See Genesis 12:10)*

#### **Romans 4:17-22**

17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the

father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb:

20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

22 And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.

#### **Hebrews 11:17-19**

17 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,

18 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:

19 Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.

10. *What two main events in Abram's life after he arrived in Canaan demonstrated his great faith in God?*

11. *What promise inspired Abraham obey God even to the point of being ready to slay Isaac?*

### **Questions for Thought and Discussion**

12. *How can Christ's disciples develop and maintain the virtue of obedience when so many live in rebellion and disobedience?*

13. *How can a disciple of Jesus today know what God wants him to do with his life?*

14. *In what ways does obedience to God have an evangelistic value?*

15. *Of what event not yet seen are we warned to prepare for by faith?*

16. *What are some securities we may have to give up to be obedient to the call of God?*



## LESSON 4

### HEROES OF TRUST — SARAH AND RAHAB

**Lesson Aim** - To challenge us to trust and relax in the promises of God.

#### Lesson Text and Bible Study Questions

##### Genesis 18:9-15

9 And they said unto him, Where is Sarah thy wife? And he said, Behold, in the tent.

10 And he said, I will certainly return unto thee according to the time of life; and, lo, Sarah thy wife shall have a son. And Sarah heard it in the tent door, which was behind him.

11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old and well stricken in age; and it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women.

12 Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?

13 And the LORD said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old?

14 Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the

time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.

15 Then Sarah denied, saying, I laughed not; for she was afraid. And he said, Nay; but thou didst laugh.

##### Hebrews 11:11

11 Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.

12 Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, *so many* as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.

##### Genesis 21:6-7

6 And Sarah said, God hath made me to laugh, so that all that hear will laugh with me.

7 And she said, Who would have said unto Abraham, that Sarah should have given children suck? for

I have born him a son in his old age

1. *Why did it seem so unbelievable to Sarah that God could give her a son?*

2. *What are some possible reasons why God waited so long to give Sarah a child?*

3. *What happened when Abraham and Sarah moved ahead of God's timetable? (See Genesis 16:1-6)*

4. *How do we know Sarah changed her attitude of disbelief?*

5. *What was Abraham and Sarah's attitude toward bringing a child into the world?*

##### Joshua 2:1

1 And Joshua the son of Nun sent out of Shittim two men to spy secretly, saying, Go view the land, even Jericho. And they went, and came into an harlot's house, named Rahab, and lodged there.

##### Joshua 2:9-13

9 And she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given

you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you.

10 For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed.

11 And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.

12 Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the LORD, since I have shewed you kindness, that ye will also shew kindness unto my father's house, and give me a true token:

13 And that ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death.

##### Joshua 2:17-18

17 And the men said unto her, We will be blameless of this thine oath which thou hast made us swear.

18 Behold, when we come into the land, thou shalt bind this line of scarlet thread in the window which thou didst let us down by: and thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy

father's household, home unto thee.

**Joshua 2:20-21**

20 And if thou utter this our business, then we will be quit of thine oath which thou hast made us to swear.

21 And she said, According unto your words, so be it. And she sent them away, and they departed: and she bound the scarlet line in the window.

**Joshua 6:22-25**

22 But Joshua had said unto the two men that had spied out the country, Go into the harlot's house, and bring out thence the woman, and all that she hath, as ye sware unto her.

23 And the young men that were spies went in, and brought out Rahab, and her father, and her mother, and her brethren, and all that she had; and they brought out all her kindred, and left them without the camp of Israel.

24 And they burnt the city with fire, and all that was therein: only the silver, and the gold, and the vessels of brass and of iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD.

25 And Joshua saved Rahab the harlot alive, and her father's

household, and all that she had; and she dwelleth in Israel even unto this day; because she hid the messengers, which Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

**James 2:25**

25 Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?

**Hebrews 11:31**

31 By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.

*6. What were some obstacles which would have made it difficult for Rahab to have faith?*

*7. What may have prompted Rahab to have such a remarkable faith in God?*

*8. What requirements did the men place on Rahab? Why might they have required her to place the scarlet cord in her window?*

**Questions for Thought and Discussion**

*9. What is a person's disposition who has trust in his heart?*

*10. How is it possible to have trust in times of danger or seemingly impossible situations?*

*11. What are some areas where we may be guilty of running ahead of God?*

*12. Was it right for Sarah to laugh at God's promise? Was it right for Rahab to lie about her situation? How can we explain God's response to these human expressions?*

*13. How might the experience of giving birth to a son have caused Sarah to move from depending upon Abraham's faith to develop her own faith?*

*14. What lessons about relating to people from non-Christian homes and background can we learn from this account of Rahab?*

*15. Give some practical areas where trust in God will help us to live different than the unbelieving world around us.*

## LESSON 5

### HERO OF SUBMISSION — ISAAC

**Lesson Aim** - To help us realize the value of submissiveness in our lives, and to help us develop this virtue.

#### Lesson Text and Bible Study Questions

##### Hebrews 11:17-20

17 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,

18 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:

19 Accounting that God was able to raise *him* up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.

20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.

##### Genesis 18:19

For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

##### Genesis 22:1-14

1 And it came to pass after these

things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.

2 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

3 And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.

4 Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off.

5 And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.

6 And Abraham took the wood of

the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together.

7 And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?

8 And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

9 And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood.

10 And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.

11 And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I.

12 And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.

13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a

burnt offering in the stead of his son.

14 And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.

1. *What are some facts that would have made obedience to God's command exceedingly difficult for Abraham?*

2. *How could Isaac be so submissive to his father when it became obvious that it was his own life that was going to be offered?*

3. *What are some arguments Isaac could have used to avoid this surrender?*

##### Genesis 24:2-4

2 And Abraham said unto his eldest servant of his house, that ruled over all that he had, Put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh:

3 And I will make thee swear by the LORD, the God of heaven, and the God of the earth, that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell:

4 But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac.

### Genesis 24:62-67

62 And Isaac came from the way of the well Lahairoi; for he dwelt in the south country.

63 And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide: and he lifted up his eyes, and saw, and, behold, the camels were coming.

64 And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she lighted off the camel.

65 For she had said unto the servant, What man is this that walketh in the field to meet us? And the servant had said, It is my master: therefore she took a vail, and covered herself.

66 And the servant told Isaac all things that he had done.

67 And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her: and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

*4. What Bible examples can you think of which would show it was not the norm for a father to select his son's wife?*

*5. Why might God have chosen this way for Isaac to receive his wife?*

*6. What other virtues do we see in Isaac's life that contributed to his submissiveness?*

### Genesis 26:18-22

18 And Isaac digged again the wells of water, which they had digged in the days of Abraham his father; for the Philistines had stopped them after the death of Abraham: and he called their names after the names by which his father had called them.

19 And Isaac's servants digged in the valley, and found there a well of springing water.

20 And the herdmen of Gerar did strive with Isaac's herdmen, saying, The water is ours: and he called the name of the well Esek; because they strove with him.

21 And they digged another well, and strove for that also: and he called the name of it Sitnah.

22 And he removed from thence, and digged another well; and for that they strove not: and he called the name of it Rehoboth; and he said, For now the LORD hath made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land.

*7. Why did Isaac give up the wells rather than to defend his possessions?*

*8. How did God reward Isaac for this?*

*9. What New Testament doctrine did Isaac typify with this kind of response?*

## Questions for Thought and Discussion

*10. Is it truly submission when you understand and feel like giving in to the request?*

*11. Name some of the authorities God established to whom we shall be submissive.*

*12. Is it ever right for Christian youth to question or challenge a directive from their parents? Explain your answer.*

*13. What would be a Biblical response to evil or harm such as when a thief would steal gasoline from your pump?*

*14. What will the reward be if we are submissive to God in this life?*

*15. Discuss some areas where Christian youth may need to be submissive where others are not.*

*16. How does submission build trust in a relationship between youth and parents?*

# LESSON 6

## HERO OF PURITY — JOSEPH

**Lesson Aim** - To learn how to keep a pure heart and life in an environment of moral corruption.

### Lesson Text and Bible Study Questions

#### Genesis 39:2

2 And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.

#### Genesis 39:7-10

7 And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me.

8 But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand;

9 There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?

10 And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by

her, or to be with her.

1. *List a few ways in which the temptation to sin may have been made especially difficult for Joseph.*

2. *What were some of the safeguards Joseph took to keep from yielding to temptation?*

3. *Who did Joseph say he would be sinning against if he committed fornication? Why?*

#### Genesis 39:11-12

11 And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there

was none of the men of the house there within.

12 And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.

#### Genesis 39:16-21

16 And she laid up his garment by her, until his lord came home.

17 And she spake unto him according to these words, saying, The Hebrew servant, which thou hast brought unto us, came in unto me to mock me:

18 And it came to pass, as I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled out.

19 And it came to pass, when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spake unto him, saying, After this manner did thy servant to me; that his wrath was kindled.

20 And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison.

21 But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

4. *What were Joseph's immediate consequences for maintaining his convictions?*

5. *Why do you think God allowed Joseph to spend time in prison?*

#### Ephesians 5:3-6

3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

#### Ephesians 5:11

11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

6. *How should a Christian respond when an impure story is told in his presence?*

7. *What are some ways a person reaps for choosing impurity of thought and conduct?*

#### 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should

abstain from fornication:

4 That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;

5 Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:

6 That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is theenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.

7 For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.

8 He therefore that despiseth,

despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.

*8. How do the moral standards of the Gentiles differ from what God expects from the Christian?*

*9. When a person chooses to defile himself with some form of impurity, who is he choosing to defile?*

## Questions for Thought and Discussion

10. *Where does purity of life begin?*

11. *What are the rewards for the pure in heart?*

12. *What may be some sources of moral temptation for youth today, and how can these temptations avoided?*

13. *Discuss the balance of friendliness and reserve between men and women in order to maintain purity of thought and life.*

14. *What are some Biblical directives for a sister in order to receive protection from the evil intentions of wicked men? (See 1 Cor. 11:10, 1 Tim. 2:9)*

# LESSON 7

## HERO OF ETERNAL VISION — MOSES

**Lesson Aim** - To challenge us to endeavor to see life from the perspective of how it will look a million years from now.

### Lesson Text and Bible Study Questions

#### Exodus 2:1-3

1 And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took to wife a daughter of Levi.

2 And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months.

3 And when she could not longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid it in the flags by the river's brink.

#### Exodus 2:9-10

9 And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages. And the woman took the child, and nursed it.

10 And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him

out of the water.

#### Hebrews 11:23

23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.

1. *How did Moses' parents express faith in their day?*

2. *What special care did Moses' mother give him?*

3. *How much do you think the choices Moses' parents made influenced him later in his choices of faith?*

#### Exodus 2:11-15

11 And it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out unto his brethren, and

looked on their burdens: and he spied an Egyptian smiting an Hebrew, one of his brethren.

12 And he looked this way and that way, and when he saw that there was no man, he slew the Egyptian, and hid him in the sand.

13 And when he went out the second day, behold, two men of the Hebrews strove together: and he said to him that did the wrong, Wherefore smitest thou thy fellow?

14 And he said, Who made thee a prince and a judge over us? intendest thou to kill me, as thou killedst the Egyptian? And Moses feared, and said, Surely this thing is known.

15 Now when Pharaoh heard this thing, he sought to slay Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh, and dwelt in the land of Midian: and he sat down by a well.

3. *Assuming Moses had right motives for this vengeance, why did the experience turn out so badly?*

4. *What caused Moses to stand by his poor blood brothers rather than to identify with his wealthy, powerful adopted family?*

5. *How do you think Moses felt when the Hebrew expressed resentment for Moses lording over him?*

#### Exodus 3:1-10

1 Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb.

2 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.

3 And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.

4 And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I.

5 And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.

6 Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.

7 And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;

8 And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out

of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

9 Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them.

10 Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.

*6. What changes did God accomplish in Moses' life that now made him usable for His purposes?*

*7. How was it that a man who once fled from the presence of Pharaoh could now stand in the court and boldly speak out for Israel's release?*

### **Hebrews 11:24-29**

24 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin

for a season;

26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

28 Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them.

29 By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.

*8. What treasure did Moses value greater than the prestige, power and wealth of Egypt?*

*9. In what way did it take faith to keep the Passover?*

*10. In what way did it take faith to pass through the Red Sea?*

### **Questions for Thought and Discussion**

11. *What did Moses give up by refusing to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter?*

12. *In what ways do you think the account would be different if Moses had chosen to remain the son of Pharaoh's daughter?*

13. *For what reasons do you think God allowed Moses to be raised in Pharaoh's house?*

14. *What rewards did Moses live to see because he chose to suffer with God's people?*

15. *What does the Christian give up today by having an eternal vision?*

16. *How can afflictions be more enjoyable than pleasures?*

17. *Could Moses have been more effective by staying in the palace and using his influence to secure a place of protection for his people? Explain.*

18. *How do youth today who have eternal vision differ from those who do not?*



# LESSON 8

## HEROES OF COURAGE — BARAK AND GIDEON

**Lesson Aim** -To stimulate the growth of Godly courage in our hearts.

### Lesson Text and Bible Study Questions

#### **Judges 4:1-9**

1 And the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD, when Ehud was dead.

2 And the LORD sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, that reigned in Hazor; the captain of whose host was Sisera, which dwelt in Harosheth of the Gentiles.

3 And the children of Israel cried unto the LORD: for he had nine hundred chariots of iron; and twenty years he mightily oppressed the children of Israel.

4 And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time.

5 And she dwelt under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in mount Ephraim: and the children of Israel came up to her for judgment.

6 And she sent and called Barak the son of Abinoam out of

Kedeshnaphtali, and said unto him, Hath not the LORD God of Israel commanded, saying, Go and draw toward mount Tabor, and take with thee ten thousand men of the children of Naphtali and of the children of Zebulun?

7 And I will draw unto thee to the river Kishon Sisera, the captain of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his multitude; and I will deliver him into thine hand.

8 And Barak said unto her, If thou wilt go with me, then I will go: but if thou wilt not go with me, then I will not go.

9 And she said, I will surely go with thee: notwithstanding the journey that thou takest shall not be for thine honour; for the LORD shall sell Sisera into the hand of a woman. And Deborah arose, and went with Barak to Kedesh.

1. *What had Israel done to come under the oppression of the Canaanites?*

2. *What are some conditions that indicate how discouraged and fearful the Israelites were?*

3. *Who called Barak into service for his country? Why?*

4. *What unusual stipulation did Barak place on his coming to help fight?*

#### **Judges 4:13-17**

13 And Sisera gathered together all his chariots, even nine hundred chariots of iron, and all the people that were with him, from Harosheth of the Gentiles unto the river of Kishon.

14 And Deborah said unto Barak, Up; for this is the day in which the LORD hath delivered Sisera into thine hand: is not the LORD gone out before thee? So Barak went down from mount Tabor, and ten thousand men after him.

15 And the LORD discomfited Sisera, and all his chariots, and all his host, with the edge of the sword before Barak; so that Sisera lighted down off his chariot, and fled away on his feet.

16 But Barak pursued after the chariots, and after the host, unto Harosheth of the Gentiles: and all the host of Sisera fell upon the edge of the sword; and there was not a man left.

17 Howbeit Sisera fled away on his feet to the tent of Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite: for there was peace between Jabin the king of Hazor and the house of Heber the Kenite.

#### **Judges 4:21-24**

21 Then Jael Heber's wife took a nail of the tent, and took an hammer in her hand, and went softly unto him, and smote the nail into his temples, and fastened it into the ground: for he was fast asleep and weary. So he died.

22 And, behold, as Barak pursued Sisera, Jael came out to meet him, and said unto him, Come, and I will shew thee the man whom thou seekest. And when he came into her tent, behold, Sisera lay dead, and the nail was in his temples.

23 So God subdued on that day Jabin the king of Canaan before the children of Israel.

24 And the hand of the children of Israel prospered, and prevailed against Jabin the king of Canaan, until they had destroyed Jabin king of Canaan.

5. *What prophecy did Jael fulfill by her action against Sisera?*

6. Where did Barak receive his courage for this battle? What lessons can this teach us about courage?

### **Judges 6:1-3**

1 And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD: and the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years.

2 And the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel: and because of the Midianites the children of Israel made them the dens which are in the mountains, and caves, and strong holds.

3 And so it was, when Israel had sown, that the Midianites came up, and the Amalekites, and the children of the east, even they came up against them;

### **Judges 6:6-7**

6 And Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites; and the children of Israel cried unto the LORD.

7 And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD because of the Midianites,

### **Judges 6:11-16**

11 And there came an angel of the LORD, and sat under an oak which was in Ophrah, that pertained unto Joash the Abiezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites.

12 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.

13 And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.

14 And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?

15 And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house.

16 And the LORD said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man.

7. How did Gideon feel about all the stories of Israel's victories in the past? Why did he feel this way?

8. Gideon expressed deep humility. Discuss how humility relates to obtaining godly courage.

### **Judges 6:25-31**

25 And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Take thy father's young bullock, even the second bullock of seven years old, and throw down the altar of Baal that thy father hath, and cut down the grove that is by it:

26 And build an altar unto the LORD thy God upon the top of this rock, in the ordered place, and take the second bullock, and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the grove which thou shalt cut down.

27 Then Gideon took ten men of his servants, and did as the LORD had said unto him: and so it was, because he feared his father's household, and the men of the city, that he could not do it by day, that he did it by night.

28 And when the men of the city arose early in the morning, behold, the altar of Baal was cast down, and the grove was cut down that was by it, and the second bullock was offered upon the altar that was built.

29 And they said one to another, Who hath done this thing? And when they enquired and asked, they said, Gideon the son of Joash hath done this thing.

30 Then the men of the city said unto Joash, Bring out thy son, that he may die: because he hath cast down the altar of Baal, and because he hath cut down the grove that was

by it.

31 And Joash said unto all that stood against him, Will ye plead for Baal? will ye save him? he that will plead for him, let him be put to death whilst it is yet morning: if he be a god, let him plead for himself, because one hath cast down his altar.

9. Why did God want Gideon to first destroy the idol worship in his home town?

### **Judges 6:34-35**

34 But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abiezer was gathered after him.

35 And he sent messengers throughout all Manasseh; who also was gathered after him: and he sent messengers unto Asher, and unto Zebulun, and unto Naphtali; and they came up to meet them.

### **Judges 7:2**

2 And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me.

### **Judges 7:7-8**

7 And the LORD said unto Gideon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver

the Midianites into thine hand: and let all the other people go every man unto his place.

8 So the people took victuals in their hand, and their trumpets: and he sent all the rest of Israel every man unto his tent, and retained those three hundred men: and the host of Midian was beneath him in the valley.

#### **Judges 7:16-17**

16 And he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet in every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and lamps within the pitchers.

17 And he said unto them, Look on me, and do likewise: and, behold, when I come to the outside of the camp, it shall be that, as I do, so shall ye do.

#### **Judges 7:19-22**

19 So Gideon, and the hundred men that were with him, came unto the outside of the camp in the beginning of the middle watch; and they had but newly set the watch: and they blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers that were in their hands.

20 And the three companies blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow withal: and they cried, The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon.

21 And they stood every man in his place round about the camp: and all the host ran, and cried, and fled.

22 And the three hundred blew the trumpets, and the LORD set every man's sword against his fellow, even throughout all the host....

*10. What were the signs Gideon was given in order to boost his confidence in God?*

*11. What did God do to destroy Gideon's confidence in man?*

*12. How did Gideon's courage inspire his men to win against overwhelming odds? How did fear bring the Midianites defeat?*

#### **Hebrews 11:32-34**

32 And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:

33 Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

34 Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to

flight the armies of the aliens.

*13. Explain how courage is related to faith in God.*

### **Questions for Thought and Discussion**

*14. Does having courage mean you never have fear? Explain.*

*15. What is the difference between having courage and being daring?*

*16. What are some difficult situations you have encountered in your life that God gave you the courage to overcome?*

*17. How can we give God the glory when we have won a victory through His power?*

*18. Discuss the place of turning to strong drink or medications to quell fears and receive courage for life.*

## LESSON 9

### HEROES OF SERVICE AND SACRIFICE — SAMUEL AND DAVID

**Lesson Aim** -To reinforce Biblical concepts of service and sacrifice for eternal blessings.

#### Lesson Text and Bible Study Questions

##### Hebrews 11:32-33

32 And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:

33 Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

##### 1 Samuel 1:25-28

25 And they slew a bullock, and brought the child to Eli.

26 And she said, Oh my lord, as thy soul liveth, my lord, I am the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the LORD.

27 For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him:

28 Therefore also I have lent him

to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD. And he worshipped the LORD there.

1. *What choices did Samuel's mother make that helped prepare him for a life of service?*

##### 1 Samuel 3:19-21

19 And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground.

20 And all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the LORD.

21 And the LORD appeared again in Shiloh: for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD.

2. *What choices did Samuel make early in life that caused the Lord to reveal*

*Himself to him?*

##### 1 Samuel 12:1-5

1 And Samuel said unto all Israel, Behold, I have hearkened unto your voice in all that ye said unto me, and have made a king over you.

2 And now, behold, the king walketh before you: and I am old and grayheaded; and, behold, my sons are with you: and I have walked before you from my childhood unto this day.

3 Behold, here I am: witness against me before the LORD, and before his anointed: whose ox have I taken? or whose ass have I taken? or whom have I defrauded? whom have I oppressed? or of whose hand have I received any bribe to blind mine eyes therewith? and I will restore it you.

4 And they said, Thou hast not defrauded us, nor oppressed us, neither hast thou taken ought of any man's hand.

5 And he said unto them, The LORD is witness against you, and his anointed is witness this day, that ye have not found ought in my hand. And they answered, He is witness.

3. *How do you know Samuel used his calling to serve his people rather than his position to serve himself?*

##### 1 Samuel 13:14

But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.

##### 1 Samuel 18:5-7

5 And David went out whither-soever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

6 And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of musick.

7 And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.

##### 1 Samuel 26:21-25

21 Then said Saul, I have sinned: return, my son David: for I will no more do thee harm, because my soul was precious in thine eyes this day: behold, I have played the fool, and have erred exceedingly.

22 And David answered and said, Behold the king's spear! and let one of the young men come over and

fetch it.

23 The LORD render to every man his righteousness and his faithfulness: for the LORD delivered thee into my hand to day, but I would not stretch forth mine hand against the LORD'S anointed.

24 And, behold, as thy life was much set by this day in mine eyes, so let my life be much set by in the eyes of the LORD, and let him deliver me out of all tribulation.

25 Then Saul said to David, Blessed be thou, my son David: thou shalt both do great things, and also shalt still prevail...

4. *What basic attitude difference qualified David for kingship and disqualified Saul?*

5. *How did David's actions before he was recognized as king help prepare people to accept him as a servant on the throne?*

## **2 Samuel 5:12**

12 And David perceived that the LORD had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted

his kingdom for his people Israel's sake.

## **2 Samuel 7:18**

18 Then went king David in, and sat before the LORD, and he said, Who am I, O Lord GOD? and what is my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?

## **2 Samuel 7:25-26**

25 And now, O LORD God, the word that thou hast spoken concerning thy servant, and concerning his house, establish it for ever, and do as thou hast said.

26 And let thy name be magnified for ever, saying, The LORD of hosts is the God over Israel: and let the house of thy servant David be established before thee.

## **2 Samuel 23:1**

1 Now these be the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, and the man who was raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, said,

## **2 Samuel 23:3-7**

3 The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God.

4 And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds; as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain.

5 Although my house be not so with God; yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things, and sure: for this is all my salvation, and all my desire, although he make it not to grow.

6 But the sons of Belial shall be all of them as thorns thrust away, because they cannot be taken with hands:

7 But the man that shall touch them must be fenced with iron and the staff of a spear; and they shall be utterly burned with fire in the same place.

7. *What are some basic attitudes David had about himself that made him an effective leader?*

## **Acts 13:36**

36 For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption:

8. *What are some areas wherein David served his generation beyond the work of being king?*

## **Romans 12:1-3**

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto

God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

## **Ephesians 6:5-8**

5 Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ;

6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;

7 With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:

8 Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.

## **1 Corinthians 15:58**

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

9. *What is needed in order for our*

*service to be acceptable with God?*

*10. How does the service of a man-pleaser differ from one who serves from the heart?*

### **Questions for Thought and Discussion**

*11. Why are not all lives of sacrifice and service recognized and rewarded by others?*

*12. If a young person does not have parents who have prayed for him, should he feel his usefulness for God will be hindered?*

*13. When does Christian service begin for youth?*

*14. What virtues should a young person develop at home before he is ready to serve God away from home?*

*15. In society today, a person's success is often rated by his ability to rule over other people. How can we develop thinking patterns of helping and serving other people instead of ruling over them?*

# LESSON 10

## HEROES OF AFFLICTION AND MARTYRDOM

**Lesson Aim** - To illustrate how faith preserves every generation in the tests they face, even in suffering and death.

### Lesson Text and Bible Study Questions

#### Hebrews 11:32-40

32 And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:

33 Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

34 Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

35 Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

36 And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:

37 They were stoned, they were

sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; 38 (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

39 And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:

40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

1. After looking up the references below, give the name of the person referred to, and how this passage refers to them.

Daniel 6:22 \_\_\_\_\_

Daniel 3:23-28 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Kings 17:22 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 22:25 \_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 39:20 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Kings 21:13 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Kings 1:8 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Kings 18:4 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Kings 19:9 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Why do you think those who were tortured may have refused to accept deliverance?

3. How does faith in God explain the paradox that through their faith some were delivered, and through their faith others suffered great affliction and even death?

#### 1 Peter 2:19-25

19 For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.

20 For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.

21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose

stripes ye were healed.

25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

4. For what two reasons might we be called upon to suffer? What should our response be in each situation?

5 What is the meaning of the phrase, "for even hereunto were ye called?"

6. What did Christ's suffering accomplish for us? How does this help us face suffering?

#### James 5:7-11

7 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

8 Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

9 Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.

10 Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.

11 Behold, we count them happy

which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

7. *What are some attitudes that might surface during persecution which should be crucified?*

8. *What is the hope that is to be an anchor for the soul during suffering?*

### **Questions for Thought and Discussion**

9. *What message does the Christian give by living in simple houses and driving simple cars in an age of prosperity?*

10. *What are some other snares that characterize 21st century America, and how shall we stand up to these tests?*

11. *How do those who suffer obtain a good report?*

12. *What are some of the promises God has given to those who suffer and die for their faith?*

13. *What are some ways we may need to suffer for our faith?*

14. *How can we know we would be able to withstand persecution without giving in?*