

In our study in the book of Hebrews we began two weeks ago looking at chapter 11. We are trying to answer a vital question, which is: “WHAT KIND OF FAITH DOES GOD ACCEPT?”

In chapter eleven, the writer of the Book of Hebrews gives us several examples of why faith is necessary to please God, and what that faith truly looks like.

I suggested two weeks ago that the kind of faith that God does accept is FAITH IN THE SUPERIORITY of JESUS over every aspect of other faiths.

I gave this title to my sermon on chapter 11.

WHY FAITH IN THE SUPERIORITY OF JESUS IS COMMENDED – PART 2

I SUGGESTED TWO WEEKS AGO THAT BEFORE WE CAN SEE WHY FAITH IN THE SUPERIORITY OF JESUS IS COMMENDED, WE NEEDED TO:

1. DESCRIBE WHAT FAITH IN THE SUPERIORITY OF JESUS LOOKS LIKE:

TWO WEEKS AGO WE LOOKED AT THREE OF THE EXAMPLE IN CHAPTER 11. THEY WERE:

- 1.1 **ABEL HAD A SACRIFICE DEFINING FAITH**
 - 1.1.1 **ABEL'S OFFERING POINTED TO A LAMB**
 - 1.1.2 **ABEL OFFERED THE “FIRSTBORN”**
 - 1.1.3 **ABEL OFFERED “The Fat-Portions”**
 - 1.1.4 **ABEL DIED BECAUSE HE SERVED GOD**
- 1.2 **ENOCH HAD AN OBEDIENCE DEFINING FAITH**
 - 1.2.1 **JESUS LEARNED OBEDIENCE**
 - 1.2.2 **THE OBEDIENCE OF JESUS WON OUR SALVATION**
 - 1.2.3 **OBEDIENCE SHOULD CHARACTERIZE CHRISTIANS**
- 1.3 **NOAH HAD A PROPHETIC DEFINING FAITH**
 - 1.3.1 **THE ARK IS A SYMBOL OF CHRIST –**
 - 1.3.2 **THE FLOOD POINTS TO THE COMING JUDGEMENT**

TODAY I WANT TO CONTINUE LOOKING AT THE EXAMPLES WE FIND IN CHAPTER 11. BECAUSE THIS IS THE DAY BEFORE WOMEN'S DAY IN SOUTH AFRICA, I WANT TO LOOK AT THE WOMEN WHO ARE LISTED AMONG THE HERO'S OF THE FAITH. SOME ARE MENTIONED BY NAME, OTHERS BY ASSOCIATION:

EXAMPLES OF WOMEN WHO'S FAITH WAS IN THE SUPERIORITY OF JESUS

*v11 It was by faith that Sarah together with Abraham was able to have a child, even though they were too old and Sarah was barren. Abraham believed that God would keep his promise. v12 And so a whole nation came from this one man, Abraham, who was too old to have any children – a nation with so many people that, like the stars of the sky and the sand on the seashore, there is no way to count them. v23 It was by faith that Moses' parents hid him for three months. They saw that God had given them an unusual child, and they were not afraid of what the king might do. v24 It was by faith that Moses, when he grew up, refused to be treated as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. v31 It was by faith that Rahab the prostitute did not die with all the others in her city who refused to obey God. For she had given a friendly welcome to the spies. v32 Well, how much more do I need to say? It would take too long to recount the stories of the faith of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and all the prophets. v33 By faith these people overthrew kingdoms, ruled with justice, and received what God had promised them. They shut the mouths of lions, v34 quenched the flames of fire, and escaped death by the edge of the sword. Their weakness was turned to strength. They became strong in battle and put whole armies to flight. v35 **Women received their loved ones back again from death. But others trusted God and were tortured, preferring to die rather than turn from God and be free. They placed their hope in the resurrection to a better life.***

Hebrews 11:9-35

1.4 SARAH HAD A MIRACLE DEFINING FAITH

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1.4.1 THE BIRTH OF ISAAC FORESHADOWS THE MIRACULOUS BIRTH OF JESUS –

The story of the birth of Isaac is recorded in Genesis 18. Several parallels exist between the events:

1. The birth is announced “Supernaturally”. The birth of Isaac is announced by Jesus – “The Angel of the Lord.”
2. The announcement is made to both “Parents”. Abraham and Sarah were together. Mary and Joseph were apart.
3. In both cases one of the “parents” did not initially believe what was said.
4. In both cases the pregnancy was a miracle. For Sarah, the miracle was a fertile egg from a barren body. For Mary, the miracle was a fertilised egg from a pure body.

1.4.2 THE BIRTH OF ISAAC FORESHADOWS THE SACRIFICE OF JESUS

Both Isaac and Jesus would be the symbol of ultimate sacrifice. Isaac would be substituted, Jesus would be the substitute!

1.4.3 **BOTH SARAH AND MARY HOLD A SPECIAL PLACE IN HISTORY**

1. Sarah went from Sarai – “My Princess” to Sarah – “The Princess”. She was not longer just the wife of Abraham, she became the “Mother of those who live by FAITH.”
2. Mary went from being an innocent “betrothed” to being one described in [Luke 1:48](#) as “for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. **From now on all generations will call me blessed**” Now I am not suggesting that Mary continues to hold some special power or ability, other than she was the earthly mother of Jesus.

1.5 **JOCHEBED HAD A PROTECTING DEFINING FAITH**

v23 It was by faith that Moses' parents hid him for three months. They saw that God had given them an unusual child, and they were not afraid of what the king might do. v24 It was by faith that Moses, when he grew up, refused to be treated as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.

1.5.1 **BOTH THE PARENTS OF MOSES AND JESUS PROTECTED THEIR CHILDREN IN EGYPT** –

Amram and Jochebed lived in Egypt, Joseph and Mary fled to Egypt.

1.5.2 **BOTH THE PARENTS OF MOSES AND JESUS RECOGNISED THEIR CHILDREN WERE UNUSUAL**

v23 It was by faith that Moses' parents hid him for three months. They saw that God had given them an unusual child, and they were not afraid of what the king might do

John 2:3-4 When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." v4 "Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied, "My time has not yet come."

1.5.3 **BOTH THE PARENTS OF MOSES AND JESUS WOULD SEE OTHER CHILDREN DIE AND THEIRS BE SAVED**

1. The sons of Israelite slaves would be murdered
2. We read in *Matthew 2:16* *When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.*

1.6 **RAHAB HAD A TRUST DEFINING FAITH**

v31 It was by faith that Rahab the prostitute did not die with all the others in her city who refused to obey God. For she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

1.6.1 **RAHAB TRUSTED IN THE GOD OF THE ISRAELITES** –

Joshua 2:9-10 (Rahab) said to them, "I know that the LORD has given this land to you and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. v10 We have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you

when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed.

1.6.2 **RAHAB TRUSTED IN THE COVERING OF “BLOOD”**

In the same way the Israelites were protected during the last Plague in Egypt by painting “blood” on the doorframes and remaining inside their houses, Rahab and her family were also protected.

Joshua 2:17-18 The men said to her, "This oath you made us swear will not be binding on us v18 unless, when we enter the land, you have tied this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you have brought your father and mother, your brothers and all your family into your house.

1.7 **WOMEN HAD A RESURRECTION DEFINING FAITH**

*v32 Well, how much more do I need to say? It would take too long to recount the stories of the faith of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and all the prophets. v33 By faith these people overthrew kingdoms, ruled with justice, and received what God had promised them. They shut the mouths of lions, v34 quenched the flames of fire, and escaped death by the edge of the sword. Their weakness was turned to strength. They became strong in battle and put whole armies to flight. v35 **Women received their loved ones back again from death. But others trusted God and were tortured, preferring to die rather than turn from God and be free. They placed their hope in the resurrection to a better life.***

Women had a pivotal role to play in the resurrection story.

1.7.1 **A WOMEN, MARY, ANNOINTED JESUS IN PREPERATION FOR HIS DEATH –**

*John 12:1-7 v1 Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived at Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. v2 Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honour. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. v3 Then Mary took about a 500ml of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. v4 But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, v5 "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." v6 He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it. v7 **"Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial.***

1.7.2 **WOMEN WERE AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS WHEN JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED**

Matthew 27:54-56 When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!" **v55 Many women were there, watching from a distance.** They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for his needs. *v56* Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

1.7.3 **WOMEN WERE AT THE TOMB WHEN JESUS WAS BURIED**

Matthew 27:60-61 (Joseph) placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away. **v61 Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb.**

1.7.4 **WOMEN WERE THERE WHEN JESUS AROSE**

Matthew 28:1-7 **After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. v2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. v3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. v4 The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. v5 The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. v6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. v7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."**

1.7.5 **A WOMEN WAS THE FIRST TO SEE THE RESURRECTED CHRIST**

Mark 16:9-10 **When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons. v10 She went and told those who had been with him and who were mourning and weeping.**

CONCLUSION

So far in our journey to discover

WHY FAITH IN THE SUPERIORITY OF JESUS IS COMMENDED?

we started two weeks ago to

DESCRIBE WHAT FAITH IN THE SUPERIORITY OF JESUS LOOKS LIKE:

WE SAW

- 1 **THE FAITH OF ABEL AS A SACRIFICE DEFINING FAITH**
- 2 **THE FAITH OF ENOCH AS AN OBEDIENCE DEFINING FAITH**
- 3 **THE FAITH OF NOAH AS A PROPHETIC DEFINING FAITH**

THIS WEEK WE SAW

- 4 **THE FAITH OF SARAH AS A MIRACLE DEFINING FAITH**
- 5 **THE FAITH OF JOCHEBED AS A PROTECTING DEFINING FAITH**
- 6 **THE FAITH OF RAHAB AS A TRUST DEFINING FAITH**
- 7 **THE FAITH OF A GROUP OF WOMEN WHO HAD A RESURRECTION DEFINING FAITH**

The church has in general for a long time devalued the faith of women.

Women form the backbone of most of our churches.

Women are those that to a large degree do the work in the church.

Women are those that teach future generations the basics of the faith.

Women form the majority of those on the mission fields of our world.

Women most often set the Spiritual tone in the homes.