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| **Saving Faith** |
| **Hebrews 11:23-31; Ephesians 2:8** |

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| Brandon Lenhart12-24-2019 |

**Saving Faith**

**(Hebrews 11:23-31; Ephesians 2:8)**

**Yearly Theme: *“Love Does…”***

**Series Title: *Substance of Faith***

**December 24th, 2019**

***Introduction:***

For the month of December, we’ve been focusing on how love never loses faith, and tonight we come to a passage of Scripture that I believe sheds light on the reason for the birth of Christ.

In Hebrews 11, we read about the great “Hero’s” of *faith* in the Bible. Stories from Abel to Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac, to Noah and even Rahab the prostitute in the city of Jericho, all display saving faith that kept them pressing on toward God and the reality of His promises. It was their faith that was tested all along the way, and it was their faith that withstood the test of time. Now they reign as witnesses of God’s goodness, and witnesses of our pressing on in faith toward that Messiah that was born in Bethlehem, crucified in Jerusalem, and rose from the grave out of Joseph of Arimathea’s unused tomb. This Messiah, Jesus, offers us salvation through faith, but we must first believe and follow Him where He leads.

Quickly, tonight, let’s take one more look at another character in the Bible whose life somewhat mirrors Jesus: Moses.

***Hebrews 11:23-31 (NLT)***

***23  It was by faith that Moses’ parents hid him for three months when he was born. They saw that God had given them an unusual child, and they were not afraid to disobey the king’s command.***

***24  It was by faith that Moses, when he grew up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. 25  He chose to share the oppression of God’s people instead of enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin. 26  He thought it was better to suffer for the sake of Christ than to own the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to his great reward. 27  It was by faith that Moses left the land of Egypt, not fearing the king’s anger. He kept right on going because he kept his eyes on the one who is invisible. 28  It was by faith that Moses commanded the people of Israel to keep the Passover and to sprinkle blood on the doorposts so that the angel of death would not kill their firstborn sons.***

***29  It was by faith that the people of Israel went right through the Red Sea as though they were on dry ground. But when the Egyptians tried to follow, they were all drowned.***

***30  It was by faith that the people of Israel marched around Jericho for seven days, and the walls came crashing down.***

***31  It was by faith that Rahab the prostitute was not destroyed with the people in her city who refused to obey God. For she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.***

Just as God used Moses to save the Israelites from slavery and bondage in Egypt, Jesus saves us from slavery and bondage to sin and death when we believe in, and follow Him out of our Egypts.

**Key Point: *“We are saved by God’s grace through our faith in Jesus Christ.”***

Let’s look at the parallels of Moses and Jesus’ lives:

1. **Like Moses was hidden from Pharaoh for three months after he was born, Jesus was hidden from King Herod after He was born.**

***Matthew 2:13-15 (NLT), 13  After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up! Flee to Egypt with the child and his mother,” the angel said. “Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.” 14  That night Joseph left for Egypt with the child and Mary, his mother, 15  and they stayed there until Herod’s death. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: “I called my Son out of Egypt.”***

1. **Like Moses, when he grew up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, Jesus, though He was God, didn’t think of equality with God as something to cling to.**

***Philippians 2:5-8 (NLT), 5  You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. 6  Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. 7  Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, 8  he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross.***

1. **Like Moses commanded the people of Israel to keep the Passover and sprinkle blood on the doorposts so that the angel of death would not kill their firstborn sons, Jesus, the only begotten Son of God, would *become* the Passover sacrifice whose blood poured out on the cross to save all who believe in Him from death.**

***Luke 2:34-35 (NLT), 34  Then Simeon blessed them, and he said to Mary, the baby’s mother, “This child is destined to cause many in Israel to fall, but he will be a joy to many others. He has been sent as a sign from God, but many will oppose him. 35  As a result, the deepest thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your very soul.”***

Even at His birth, Jesus was destined as the perfect Passover sacrifice for the sins of the world. And because of the joy set before Him (salvation of mankind through faith), Jesus endured the cross, scorning its shame, and *now* He sets at the right hand of the throne of God advocating on our behalf! Today is the day of salvation! Today is the day of freedom! Because of Jesus, through our faith in Him, we can have everlasting life! Because of Jesus we can approach the throne of grace with confidence!

***Hebrews 10:19-22 (NLT), 19  And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven’s Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. 20  By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place. 21  And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God’s house, 22  let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ’s blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.***

***Conclusion:***

The late, Mike Yaconelli, in his book *Messy Spirituality*, wrote,

“Buried in the back of my mind is the gnawing worry that my grace credit card is going to be cancelled. Parked somewhere in my subconscious is the belief that grace and forgiveness are lavish, unconditional, and *limited*.

“Cross Jesus one to many times, fail too often, sin too much, and God will decide to take his love back. It is so bizarre, because I know Christ loves me, but I’m not sure he likes me, and I continually worry that God’s love will simply wear out.”[[1]](#footnote-1)

God loves you; He cares for you! God wants what’s best for you. This love of God can be rejected, but He still loves regardless. The only thing God cannot do for you is make you believe in Him and *love* Him in return. However, what He could do, *he did*! God gave His one and only Son that whosoever believes in Him will not perish, but have everlasting life. That’s *grace*! All it takes is *faith*; *saving faith* in Jesus Christ.

***Ephesians 2:8 (NLT), God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God.***

Let us remember…

**Key Point: *“We are saved by God’s grace through our faith in Jesus Christ.”***

(Communion Video “*So Will I*” by Hillsong, and Communion at this point in the service.)

1. Michael Yaconelli, *Messy Spirituality*, (Zondervan: Grand Rapids, Michigan; 2002), 123-124. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)