

Hebrews 11:20-40 It Can Be Done, Part 3

If you are a Baseball fan you are probably familiar now with the name David Freese. The 2nd year player for the St. Louis Cards – MVP of world Series

A) His **game six heroics are now legendary** – triples in the 9th to drive in two runs to tie the game – Homers in the 11th to win it! – AMAZING!!!

B) After the game **the Hall of fame committee** – from Cooperstown – asked if they could have his bat – to forever keep on display to remember his heroic performance.

C) **David Freese is quite a story** – High School He is considered the best HS baseball player in the state of Missouri. – Sure Prospect.

1) End of senior season He quits – Burned out – turns down a Div 1 scholarship - wants to be a regular guy – enrolls in college

2) Gets a Job as a Janitor at his old High School – after a year – watching baseball practice – he realizes he misses it – decides to return – the rest is history. – Stuff of legend.

D) And coaches all over America will be using the story of David Freese and the St. Louis Cards – to motivate their players – You can comeback.

1) Just believe in yourself – believe in your teammates – never lose faith.

E) Baseball, Basketball, Football – halls of fame are filled with the names of athletes who did just that – they kept the faith.

1) They continued to believe in their ability- Faith in themselves / teams.

Hebrews Chapter 11 has been called the **Hall of faith** and it is filled with the names of pp who believed – **But not in themselves. But in their God.**

A) Men and women who had faith – but not in their own ability to perform, **but in God's ability.**

B) Their lives are a testimony to us that it can be done – IF – I can get my eyes off of myself and on to Him.

C) And as Jason **comically pointed out last week** – these men and women didn't always believe – **Sarah laughed when God promised.**

1) They tried to take matters into their own hands. **Hagar and Ishmael were the result of that!**

But even when they had these moments where their faith faltered – they kept coming back – to focus in on the Big Picture – the big Plan of God

A) His plan – Bring a Savior into the world – Save humanity from Sin.

B) This is how He was going to do it- He was going to bring into being a New Pp group – Israel – Jews

1) Establish them in a New land – Make of them a great nation.

C)And even when they had those seasons where their faith faltered – they kept coming back to the big picture.

1) Promised pp/ Nation/ land/ - a child- a Savior!

D)I believe we will see that very clearly as we finish the chapter today – picking up in V.20

1)It can be done – part 3

20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. NIV ...blessed Jacob and Esau in regards to their future.

A)Now of all the things that God could have pin pointed as an act of faith on the part of Isaac – why does He pick this one – **Blessing his kids?**

B)He could have chosen something else.

1)Look at v.17

17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," 19 concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

C)If I was writing Heb 11 – I think I would have chosen – **Isaac's willingness to going along with being a sacrifice. 15-25 yrs old – not a little kid!**

He carries the wood – and the stuff for making fire – up the hill –

A)He even asked his dad Abe/ where is the sacrifice ?

B)Abe answered in a prophetic way: **God will provide Himself KJV Genesis 22:8**

1)– not for Himself – but Himself a sacrifice.

C)Isaac is probably thinking – sort of an odd answer – but dad is getting old – I will let it pass.

D)Get up there – Isaac builds the Altar – then dad says – get up there – Sacrifice you-

1)He lets his dad tie him down.- Abe raises the knife.

E)If I am Isaac – I am saying no way – You are not sacrificing me. { **I will put you on this altar.**

1)Abe is like pushing 120 – Isaac is younger stronger

E)Isaac went along with this plan - by faith. Perhaps also believing like Abe, God is going to raise me up – Promised child.

1)Incredible illustration of **the big Picture – Jesus willingly submitted to the will of the father in being the sacrifice for Sin.**

A Cool connection – Abe said – God will provide Himself a sacrifice – and 2,000 yrs later He did on that very same Mt. Mt Moriah which now is Jerusalem. - ISN'T GOD COOL IN WHAT HE DOES.

So if I am writing Hebrews 11 that is what I am pointing to as illustration of Isaac's faith –

A) Or I might have picked the time when Abe said – to his servant Eleazor – **Go and pick a bride for my son. – Far away land.**

B) If I am Isaac I would be – **I AM GOING WITH YOU BRO! –**

C) Or at least giving a description – about 5'2 brown hair – picture – **I want her to look like this! –**

1) that takes faith – let someone else pick your wife.

But the Bible doesn't draw our attention to any of those things- it simply says by faith Isaac blessed his two sons concerning their futures

A) See this is what a lot of Pastors/commentators do with Heb. 11 and the text mentioned here about Isaac, Jacob and Joseph – they read this about Isaac and

v21 By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. 22 By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.

B) And they think – *what am I supposed to do with that* – and so they pick some other event to focus on in the life of these men.

C) In choosing to focus on some other event in their lives that points to their faith – we miss ENTIRELY the big picture being presented here.

D) Isaac and Jacob blessing their sons – and Joseph being asking that his bones being carried out of Egypt were all statements of faith –

1) Illustrating that these men still believed in the big picture – the promise of God.

E) He is going to make us a great nation/ new land and the Promise of a Savior!

When Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau – there wasn't a great nation – there was a small family – Isaac – His wife Rebekah and two twin boys

A) The **action of blessing** was an illustration that He continued to believe **in the big picture** – the big Plan of God! – A nation, a people, a savior!

B) He was believing in the promise of God – this is still going to happen. – **70yrs had past from the time the promise was given to Abe –**

1) But they were holding on – believing not in their ability – **But in the Ability of God. –**

C) The Same thing is illustrated by Jacob blessing the sons of Joseph.

1)At that moment – **the people of God – the family of Jacob** – who we would call the Israelites, number a total of 70 pp

D)They are living as visitors in the land of Egypt – there is no promise land – there is not great nation.

E)But Jacob believing the promise of God – blessed these two boys – stating that they are both to become a great people groups – blessed by God.

E)And they WERE! – Jacob holding on to the BIG PICTURE!

Seen again with Joseph! He held on to the big picture – never lost sight of it!

A)Joseph could have sang – **Egypt been very very good to me** –

B)But Joseph held on to the reality that – Egypt is not it – **not the blessing – not the promised land.**

1)So Joseph when He is dying reminds those who are around – **of the Big picture** – God is taking us out of here – When he does, take my bones

C)I want to be buried in the Promised land – 400yrs later they would take his bones – remarkable!

Here is what these three patriarchs teach us is that in the face of death –we NEED to hang on to the big picture.

A)**Promise of God – This is not the end** – there is more to Come – heaven is waiting – heaven is calling – and we cannot lose sight of that.

B)Not just heaven but eternity- **Heaven 7yrs after the rapture** –Jesus returns – establishes – His kingdom – New heaven – new earth – rule reign

C)Sound Scifi to us – But that is our destiny – Everything is moving toward that day! **We need to believe that – live like that.**

1)THERE IS A BIG PICTURE –

D)We can't lose sight of the Big Picture – they didn't – when they did, they kept coming back.

1)Even in the midst of Huge delays

It is easy for us when God delays to think of the delay as a denial – God must not love me – what can I do to get Him to respond. – move

A)GIRL WITH THE VENDING MACHINE IN OR

B(But when God delays/ or obstacle/ DETOUR WE NEED TO REMEMBER-

1)There is **a bigger picture** involved – there is a bigger plan involved

C)That is at the heart of what Hebrews ch.11 is about – **Faith in a BIG GOD – who has a big plan!**

D) See it again 400 yrs after Joseph – makes this request, when we get out of here – take my bones

1) We read in v.23 of the faith of the Parents of Moses – Amram and Jochebed

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

The Children of Israel had been living in Egypt for close to 400 yrs / much of it as slaves (grown – now the 70pp grown to 2-3 million) Incubation period

A) Pharaoh observes this growth / HE sees that the **Israelite Population** is getting larger than the Egyptians

B) Issues this decree – that **any Male Babies born to the Israelites** are to be taken from them & thrown into the Nile River to drown

1) Thus It was a Horrible time for the nation of Israel – **there was great Distress in the Land**

C) Satan's attempt to thwart the promise. **{Kill off the race and any chance of a promised child being born.**

In the midst of this turbulent & distressing time they gave birth to a Son – but as they looked at this Boy – they saw something special

A) We are told in our text *that they saw that He was Beautiful* / NIV & NLT get it right – NIV **they saw**

that he was not an ordinary child/ NLT they saw He was an unusual child.

B) Special calling on their son!

B) for that reason they were not afraid of Pharaoh – they decided to go against Pharaoh's edict & hide their son .

C) Now it is True, that Moses is one of the **EXTRA-ordinary individuals** of Scripture.

1) But the truth of the matter is that each child given by the Lord is special.

Psalm 127:3 "Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him."

Quest. What Do You See when you look at your kids

Jeremiah 1:5 "I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations."

A) One reason we are so against abortion – Every life to the Lord is precious!

Aa) Amram & Jochebed had this understanding that their child was a POTENTIAL TOOL for God

1) that they risked everything to **PRESERVE him for the purposes of God.**

B) Do YOU see that in your children? Potential purpose for God ?

1) Even in the ones that presently are causing you heartache

C) Kids can be **so DIFFERENT** One might be so manageable, so easy, while another one is rowdy and hard to control.

1) We often have thoughts like *Surely the quiet one is the one the Lord will use.*

NOTE: Have you ever thought that the one that is a terror right now has the potential to be a terror FOR the Lord?

A) Strong willed – Strong willed for Jesus – Not swayed by Peer Pressure

B) I think we need to Constantly pray that the Lord would give us Vision to see our Kids' Potential to see what they might become for Jesus

1) Pray that the Lord would give us insight on how to **Foster that Potential**

C) So Believing in the promise of God – the big picture – **they placed their son in the Nile** –

D) So Moses' parents teach us **that it is possible to entrust the future** of our kids' lives over to the Lord

1) even when the outside opposition is greater than we could ever imagine

Then the HS draws our attention to Moses himself

Read v. 24-29

Moses himself teaches us that we can turn our backs on all that this world has to offer us & follow God's plan & purpose for our lives.

A) We read here in V. 24 that Moses **refused to be called the Son of Pharaoh's daughter** – and forsook all the wealth and power that came with that title.

B) He instead chose to suffer affliction with the people of God - Why did he do that?

C) v.27 **He saw Him who is invisible / his life was forever changed , his passion became to know God / be & do what God wanted.**

1) Paul on road to Damascus *"Who are you Lord? "* Passion the rest of his life / Phil 3 *"Lay aside all know Him.....Dung*

D) Paul went from being **consumed by religion** – to being **consumed by a relationship with Jesus!**

That was where Moses was at / He caught a glimpse of God and of heaven and it ruined him to this world!

A) He would later - Climb the Mountain /to meet w/ God. – longed to be on the Mt. Stayed 40 days – In God's Presence

B) There was a time when God was going to abandon the people – because of their rebellion / send an Angel

1) Moses said to God - No Angel "You or nothing
Not You Lord we are not going"

**C) God said ok- Moses said – One more thing - SEE
GLORY!**

*“Christianity in its purest form, is nothing more than
seeing Jesus. Something happens to the person who
has witnessed His majesty . One glimpse of the king
and you are consumed with a desire to see more of
Him and to say more about Him” Max Lucado*

Greatest need of our Young People!

A)Not **just apologetics** – the head – important – but
the heart – they have to have an encounter with JC

B)Parents’ faith – that will **RUIN THEM** to this
world – no desire the world.

1)Encounter with God – every camp – study

**Seeing the Lord affected Moses in another way : He
saw the world for what it was, that it was Passing !**

A) V25 **Note Sin is Pleasurable/** but the Problem is
it doesn't last, it doesn't satisfy

B)The person living for this World will be a person who
lives by Sight , lives by what he can **See, Touch, Taste.**

1) He will seek for pleasure & fulfillment in those
things But everything that this world has to offer
is fleeting & Temporary

**And Moses had all that this world had to offer but he
realized it was passing because / He saw God!**

A) As a result V,26 He **ESTEEMED** the reproach of
Christ – greater riches than the treasures in Egypt
because He looked to the Reward.

B)IN other words – He saw the big Picture!

1)Do anything – Lamb blood on the door – walk thru
a wall of water -

C)The life of Moses **TEACHES** us that when we see
the Lord – when we hold on to the big picture - **We
see everything else in the RIGHT PERSPECTIVE!**

**In v.30 He mentions Joshua – Joshua’s life teaches us
the importance of following God’s plan even when it
makes sense to no one but God**

A)JERICHO 1ST major obstacle to possessing the
promise land – possessing the promise of God!
Joshua out surveying – battle plan –

B)God gives Him one - – what a plan – silly – God’s
plan march once a day seven days – final day 7 times
– blow the trumpet – **CRAZY!**

C) Joshua’s life illustrates the Victory of Faith –
**Believing and obeying the plan of God – even when it
doesn’t make sense.**

1)**Watching Him do the MIRACULOUS.**

After Joshua he mentions Rahab in v.31 – Rahab teaches us that God uses people w/ sinful backgrounds.

A)Did you know there is a former Prostitute in the Hall of Faith – (Note Jeremiah, Ezekiel , Isaiah, Elisha are not mentioned) but Rahab the harlot is –

B) She heard the testimony of Jehovah’s greatness – believed it & acted upon it!

1)She hid the spies – and when all of Jericho is destroyed she is spared.

C)Imagine those spies’ conversations with their wives – So the whole city is going to be destroyed – no one spared – well one – Rahab – Hooker

1)IS she pretty.

D)I love how God works – loves to shake things up – and He doesn’t stop there – He picks Rahab to be in the line of Christ – She marries and Israelite Salmon

1)Has a Baby – Boaz who marries Ruth – baby Obed – his wife – Jesse – His wife gives birth to David -

2) Joseph and Mary parents of Jesus are both descendants of David{ God is so AWESOME

E)The life of Rahab teaches us that – God is able to work in spite of our labels.

See Rahab had a label – Prostitute. – she eventually received a new label – Rahab the mother of Kings.

A)In some ways Rahab’s story is our story – Each of us has a Label – connected to our past.

B)Some of you have had your label concealed for a long time- you prefer to keep it a secret – maybe you had an abortion – or promiscuous – hurt pp

1)Adulterer – whatever

C)You avoid letting people get too close or talking about your past because of the shame.

1)Your label keeps you from getting too close to God.

Here is something that is interesting – when the spies offered to spare Rahab they said nothing about her lifestyle. –

A)Abandoning her trade was not part of the deal – changing her life wasn’t discussed.

B)See Rahab’s label was not an obstacle for God – and neither is yours!

C)God picked Rahab- put her in the Hall of faith and the line of Jesus – just to tick prudish pp off – REALLY - Magnify His grace

1)Illustrate – come just as you are. – Labels and all – I can work with that

V.32-40 Many other examples : Idea is how many more examples do I need to give in order to make my point

A)I am not running out of examples but I am running out of time!

B)Let's read – point out two things!

C)V.39 These died in faith – having not received the promise of God – God delayed – but they held on

1)The world was not worthy of such pp

One last word of encouragement is offered in verse 40.

A)Remember He is writing to those living in the midst of intense persecution – Nero – Keep going –

B)Keep believings! - **he links believers from Old and New Testaments together, showing that there is a continuity and unity in our faith.**

D)There are not "two faiths," one old and the other new.

1)They **looked forward to Christ** in the shadows through a Levitical priesthood and animal sacrifices,

They looked forward – we look back - we see Christ in all the fullness and sufficiency of His death on the cross.

A)They lived under the old covenant while looking for the fulfillment of the new covenant in Christ.

They lived looking ahead to the first coming of Christ and the fulfillment of the promise.

A)New pp/ Nation/ Promised Child/ Savior.

B)We look back – fulfilled in Christ – and now we look forward – to the 2nd coming of Christ

1)THE REST OF THE BIG PICTURE!

C)His KINGDOM / HIS PLAN / HIS GLORY

This is what I want all of us to grab a hold of as we wrap up this ch. Today is there is a big picture.

A)God's will is going to be carried out – You can fight with it/ run from it / resist it – But it doesn't matter – It is going to happen.

B)The best thing we can do is go with it, be a part of it – partner with - Go with the flow.

C)Realize – Sphere of influence – is about being a part of that Plan.

D)Keep Running the race {Don't lose heart –

D)Not a part of the plan – give your life to Christ

1) GET IN THE GAME!!