

Hebrews 11:38

The World was not Worthy of Them (First Things First)

What words would you use to describe Jesus?

A) Loving – Faithful – Gracious

B) Fearless – Generous – Compassionate – Irresistible

C) Reaction of the World toward Christ followers in Jesus day – 2 Extremes: One side – Hate

1) On the other side: Irresistible –

D) Wanted to join them - something so special so different – DRAWN TO THEM.

Band of 11 Disciples – Spread like wild fire.

A) Turned their world upside down.

B) Name of Christ grew –

1) Persecution – people left stands – joined them

C) Name Christian – Known as Christ like.

What words do you think the World today would use to describe – Christians?

A) Depends on who you talk to.

B) POS - Religious, Nice, Gracious, Kind, Devoted

C) NEG – Hateful, Self-righteous, Shallow, Phony Pretentious – Freaking out!!!!

1) What *went* WRONG WITH US?

A lot of UNREST today: This is such an interesting time in our country /

November 13, 2015 – Paris attacks

A) For the first time since 911 the whole world stopped – {Facebook inundated – Pray – Flags

B) But Every week there are terrorist type attacks that happen in the Middle East –

1) Not reported or if they are we have sort of grown accustomed to hearing them.

C) That place is strange WE think.

1) But Paris that is close to home – Western – that is a lot like us

D) 3 weeks later – San Bernardino – Thinking this is really close – this is getting Crazy

People are Afraid:

A) Then we look at the election - None of the candidates LOOK special – problems with all them

B) Republican side: Trump is leading – the country is so fed up with the norm – TRY ANYTHING

C) And Many Christians are Freaking out!

1) Worried about our Country.

The Lord led me to the book of Hebrews

A) Hebrews is about Jewish Christians in the first century – Persecution – Forsaking Christ – returning

B) Why return to the shadows when we have the real thing?

C) Hebrews 11 – addresses the issue of living by Faith

Example of the Hero's of faith in the OT – men and woman living in tough times – followed God

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. ² For by it the elders obtained a good testimony

A) Faith is the substance of things hoped for- Hope = an absolute expectation of coming good.

1) Speaks of an Assurance – what has been promised is going to happen

B) We all experienced this – the first job we ever had.

1) Hired – we agreed to a wage – a salary – we worked those first 2 weeks – believing expecting – to be paid.

C) Faith is that Expectation – or a confidence that God is going to do what He promised to do.

D) Walking by faith is simply living your life every single day as if God can be trusted.

1) God is going to keep His promise

The interesting thing about the list of names here in Hebrews 11 – They all lived by faith

A) But most of them died - never seeing the Promise fulfilled. – [Never got the Check]

B) Abraham never made it to the Promised land – Never saw his lineage **become a great nation**.

C) Moses never made it into the Promised land

D) The Prophets never saw the Messiah they prophesied was coming to SAVE.

1) They all died before the promise was fulfilled but they lived like it was a present reality.

They didn't just die – V.35 Tortured, scourged, beaten, imprisoned, beheaded, sawn in two!

A) As the writer of Hebrews writes these words – he seems to pause – **EMOTION** – thinking about what they ENDURED.

B) Considering the journeys – the faithfulness – the caliber of these men and women.

C) And then he writes these words – V.38 “**And the world was not worthy of them**”!

D) As if to say or imply – the men and women in this list had **so much less EVIDENCE to look to – and so much more to lose – THEY WERE FAITHFUL!**

AS if to say TO HIS Hebrew audience who were struggling with their faith – wondering – worth it?

A) AS WELL AS to us living as Christ followers in 2016 freaking out about our world/ economy/ election

B) That statement: **The World was not worthy of them** – his way of saying:

1) **There was once a version of faith in God that resulted in Heroic living**

C) There was once a version of faithfulness to God that caused others to stand back and wonder

1) Who in the world are these people

D) There was once a version of faith in God that was awe inspiring

E) Those lives listed in Hebrews 11 – are our example

Key: Focused on a city with foundations, whose building and maker is God!

A) Focused NOT on the immediate circumstances – they were focused on the BIGGER PRIZE!

V.39 **And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise,⁴⁰ God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.**

B) God planned something better for us.

C) Here is the idea - THOSE in Hebrews 11 were looking forward and were faithful – believing the promise – Messiah coming

B) They only had the promise and never saw the fulfillment

C) We on the other hand - **are looking back!** – We can see how the promise was fulfilled in Jesus

D) We get the big picture – Messiah was coming to rescue people from a bigger enemy

The Promise made to Abraham was carried out through his physical descendant – Yes – Israel

A) But even more so through the fact that Abraham – **Justified by faith – Father of Faith**

B) All of us are descendants of Abraham – in the fact that we too have been justified by Faith in Jesus

1) 100's of millions of Christians through the ages

C) The Hero's of faith in Hebrews 11 looked forward to Jesus – **VERY UNCLEAR** – believed the promise

1) But they remained faithful

D) We today – can look back to JESUS in great clarity – Understand – WE GET IT

1) We can see how the promises have been fulfilled in Christ

The example of Hebrews 11 and all the prophecies about Jesus that have been fulfilled should inspire us

A) **INSPIRE US** – to live with confidence in what is still coming –

B) Confidence that God is on the throne.

C) But despite all the evidence – so many CHRISTIANS live in Fear!

1) We are freaking out over – Condition of our world

F)Something is wrong with that Picture.

Too be honest – I can't help and wonder if Jesus looks at us – Freaking out and thinks

A)You guys live in the USA – and you are freaking out about who is going to be President/ or the economy

B)Have you forgot who you are following?

1)I rode into Jerusalem – down main street – I was arrested and beaten on YOUR BEHALF.

C)To pay the price for your sins – I rose again to give you life –

1)I have promised to never leave you nor forsake you and I AM COMING BACK AGAIN

D)WHAT ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT – Why are you Freaking out?

On top of that – Christians in Countries like Syria and Pakistan are getting killed every day.

A)China – Meet in secret –

B)Kind of embarrassing.

C)THE TESTIMONY OF THOSE WHO ENDURED in Hebrews 11 is meant to inspire us

SO based on the testimony of those in Hebrews 11 the writer of Hebrews declares in Ch. 12:1

A)Therefore since we have so great a crowd of witness – Hebrews 11 – Give testimony can be done

B)Let us grumble and complain and whine about our world

1)Lets hoard our resources just in case

C)Lets put our Bibles on the shelf and build bomb shelters – purchase ammunition

D)Lets blame the cops, blame the president, blame our teachers – blame our mamas

E)Demand our rights, and build a wall and call each other names - TAX the rich

1)Play it safe and find someone to sue and pray to Jesus so we just don't have to suffer!

No that is not what He says: He says Run the Race

let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Weights Vs Sin

Endurance – Perseverance – Trust in Jesus

Keeping our eyes on Jesus.

A)Church listen to me – Our world is getting Crazy

B)**Look to Jesus**

C)Church listen to me – If the Lord tarries – being a Christian is going to get harder – lines being drawn

1)**Look to Jesus**

D)Wouldn't it be awesome – said of us – **“The world was not worthy of them.”** –

1)So different – something special about their Christianity.

Challenged of late: What am I living for?

A)Where are my priorities?

B)What is important to me?

C)How sold out am I?

Pelicans - Reckless abandon

A)Eye on the Prize – going for it with my whole heart

B)Circumstances in my life – don't like – trusting?

1)Things don't go the way I hoped in our church? Forced to make tough decisions – freaking out?

C)Am I All depressed or I am trusting ?

Look to Jesus –

Hall of faith is still being written –

Never easy – God is good!