

FEASTING ON THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

Faithful to Deliver

Hebrews 11:23-29

INTRODUCTION: Good morning church. Thank you for connecting to our live stream on Facebook or on our sabc.org website.

- I am grateful the Lord has made a way for us to worship together.
- Guests, we also welcome you. If you want to connect with us, post a message on our Facebook page or on our website. We will be glad to respond to you.
- Although we do not know the date we can begin any form of regathering on our campus, we are getting ready.
- We have already begun the work to make this the safest place you will be able to go outside your own home. As we get closer to the time we can issue the invitation, we will describe to you what you will find at our church plant to keep you as safe as possible.
- We are eager to be together again!

Now, this morning, I want to put a fresh spread on the banquet table of God's faithfulness.

- You know, my friend, God never runs low on faithfulness.
- This week we had quite a turn of events in the oil industry. For decades the problem has been getting enough oil to run everything that relies on petroleum, at least being able to get it at a price we can afford.
- But this week, there was so much oil available that the normal buyers of this oil had no place to store it.
- Folks, the Lord's faithfulness is like that. God's faithfulness flows so freely from the throne of God, that it fills us up and overflows, and when we have stored it up in our hearts, it continues to flow and flow and flow.
- As Paul said to Timothy

2 Timothy 2:13 NKJV If we are faithless, He remains faithful; ...

As I try to spread before you a fresh feast of the faithfulness of God, I want to take you to Hebrews chapter 11 which we often call the chapter of the Heroes of the Faith. But

while we often examine the lives of these heroes to see what was it about their faith that provides an example for our faith, I want us to look at a different side of things this morning.

For the faith of each of these heroes was provoked first by the faithfulness of God.

Specifically we are going to read about Moses, who was indeed a man of great faith. But we are not going to look so much at Moses' faith but at God's faithfulness to Moses and to the people of Moses called Israel.

Our passage is only seven verses long, so will you stand with me wherever you are and let us demonstrate our reverence for and attentiveness to the Word of God.

Hebrews 11:23-29 NKJV 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. 24 By faith Moses, when he became of age, 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 passing pleasures of sin, 26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to 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 By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them. 29 By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry *land*, whereas the Egyptians, attempting *to do so*, were drowned.

You may be seated.

Folks, these seven verses in Hebrews summarize one of the greatest stories of God's faithfulness told in the Scriptures. That story stretches for fifteen chapters in the Book of Exodus. I cannot begin in a single message to tell you the fullness of the faithfulness of God to deliver the nation of Israel from their captivity in Egypt.

- The people had come to Egypt by God's gracious hand after the Lord made Joseph the Prime Minister of Egypt.
- Living in the beautiful and fruitful land of Goshen in the Nile Delta, the people multiplied and prospered.
- So much so that after Joseph was dead and gone and Pharaohs changed from one to another, the rulers of Egypt felt threatened by their numbers and strength.
- So they were made to be slaves.
- But God did not intend His people to remain slaves. He had promised them their own land, the land where Abraham had lived.
- And He promised that the people of Israel would serve Him in that land.

And what we see in brief today, is God's abundant, overflowing faithfulness to His people.

- And my prayer for all of us today would be that we would be filled with the delicacies from this portion of the banquet table of the faithfulness of God.
- And that the rest of the day and through the week that we would remember that in the same ways God was faithful to His people then, He will be faithful to His people now.
- That we would know in our hearts that when we hear bad news,
 - That someone says the economy is worsening.
 - Or someone says the outbreak of COVID-19 somewhere is worsening.
- That we will recall that the people of Israel heard bad news, time and time again, and a lot of it was true. Things were bad. But the bad things did not hinder the faithfulness of God.

So let's look at our text, a verse at a time and see this feast of God's faithfulness.

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.

- Before Moses was born, Pharaoh had commanded that every male Hebrew child should be killed.
- But God was faithful to protect Moses.
- God gave Moses parents who loved him (beautiful child) and who were more concerned to obey the law of God that says "You shall not kill" than to obey the king's command.
- So Jochebed made a little floating basket for Moses, and had Miriam watch it float among the reeds at the edge of the river.
- And God brought the one person in the whole world who could get away with violating the King's command, his daughter, to the edge of the river to bathe where she would find baby Moses and fall instantly in love with Him. I can picture the scene.
- What were the odds? **Dear brother or sister in the Lord, do not fear if the odds are against you in getting the help you need, in being delivered, in being rescued. What are the odds that the most remote thing will occur that you need to happen? 100% when God is in control!**

24 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,

- So, Moses grew up in Pharaoh's household.
- God was faithful to prepare Moses in every way: education, politics, and palace etiquette.
- Because God was being faithful to prepare the man He would use to come back and confront another Pharaoh saying, "Thus says the Lord God, let my people go!"
- But God was also faithful to protect Moses' heart. His heart remained loyal to his own people. When he saw a Hebrew man being beaten, he could not stand it.
- **How is God in His faithfulness preparing you to serve Him during these days of hardship?**

25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

- God caused Moses to so love his people that he refused to identify with the nobility, but instead chose to identify with those who had been enslaved.
- God in His faithfulness gave Moses a constitution and a commitment that was willing to forsake the temporal in favor of the eternal.
- Moses esteemed the reproach of Christ. That means each forsook popularity with men for the sake of intimacy with God. Neither Christ nor Moses would have won any popularity contests. Each was rejected not just by their enemies but by their own people.
- **God enabled Moses to stand alone, a discipline he would need as much in leading Israel through the wilderness as he needed in Pharaoh's court.**
- **While forced to social distance away from other people, are you using the time to draw closer to the Lord?** Walking with God through Difficult Days: See God's purposes and goals and how you can see those goals in your life. Visit the blog @ sabc.org

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

- God was faithful to give Moses courage to not be afraid of Pharaoh but instead to reverence and live in awe of the invisible God.

- How did God do that? By the plagues. Moses saw when Pharaoh refused to obey the Lord's command to release God's people.
 - God turned standing water into blood.
 - God ordered the frogs out of ponds and rivers into kitchens and beds.
 - God sent lice on all the people of Egypt. Ever had lice?
 - Swarms of flies followed, everywhere but Goshen.
 - Then God sent a plague on all the livestock of Egypt, but among the children of Israel, not a single animal got sick.
 - Then the Lord afflicted the Pharaoh and all the Egyptians with boils.
 - Then God send a hail storm on the Egyptians crops. When Pharaoh finally relented and agreed to let Israel go, God stopped the hail. Then Pharaoh hardened his heart again against the Lord, and would not let Israel go. So ...
 - God sent locusts to devour what was left of the Egyptian crops.
 - Then the Lord sent three days of total darkness over all of Egypt, all of Egypt except for Goshen where Israel lived. The light continued to shine there.
 - Finally God declared He would pass through and slay the firstborn of every Egyptian family, firstborn of both children and animals. But the Lord told Israel to kill a lamb and put its blood on the doorposts and lintels of their homes, and God would pass over their houses and let the firstborns live.
- **How has God shown His mighty power to you?** I remember many personal demonstrations of the power and faithfulness of the Almighty.
 - When I was a young teen, only been saved a few years, I came close to being in the most serious trouble of my whole life growing up through a sin of ignorance I had committed. I cried out to God, and He rescued me!
 - When Karen and I were a young married couple in college, we were always pinching pennies. One day we were a meal away from being totally broke with no income due in for over a week. We prayed, and God sent a snowstorm and gave me the idea to use our last few dollars to buy a snow shovel and offer to clean driveways and walks. In six hours I made enough money to buy food until the next income from our regular jobs came in.

- Many were the times God spared the life of our son who by the law of averages should have died many deaths. He did die once, and God allowed the emergency doctors to bring him back. Later they told us it was impossible for him to live with the damage done to his heart. We prayed, and God did another miracle, and he is alive and serving the Lord today.
- I've told you before of daily miracles during our ministry in the aftermath of both Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Michael which I will not repeat this morning.
- How has God shown His mighty power to you? If you will be watchful and attentive, you too will observe how faithful God is to demonstrate His mighty power so that you too, like Moses, can reverence Him, stand in awe of Him, and declare your loyalty to Him above any every person.

28 By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them.

- Moses led the people to trust God and obey His word in believing in the provision God had made for them to spare their lives by sprinkling the blood of the lamb on the doorposts and lintels of their homes.
- **Have you believed in God's provision of His Son, the Lamb of God, who died on the cross for our sins and rose from the dead?**
- Have you trusted in Him so that the second death could pass over you and you could by His grace live forever with Him?

29 By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned.

- And this is my favorite part! Pharaoh finally let Israel leave Egypt, but as soon as they had reached the mountain pass bordering the Red Sea, he changed his wicked mind. He summoned the army, and in the chariots they raced after their former slaves.
- When they caught up with them, Pharaoh thought he had them trapped. Israel had mountains to the right and left, a huge deep sea behind them, and the mighty Egyptian army charging up the only open path.
- But God in His power and faithfulness rolled up the waters of the Red Sea until they looked like a wall of water on the right and the left, He dried up the sea bed that this mass of two and a half million people could all walk through on the other side.

- And when Pharaoh and the other Egyptians followed them, God collapsed the walls of water, and destroyed the enemy army completely.

God kept His promise to deliver them.

God was and is always faithful.

My friend, if you want help in coming to personal faith in the Lord and knowing His marvelous faithfulness, just send us a text to 850-381-0041.

If you are not a member of St. Andrew Baptist, but you are interested in connecting with us, just send us a text and tell us.

We will respond to you to help in whatever way we can.

God bless you.