**Faith to Take A Stand**

Sunday School Lesson 6

*Faith in Action*

Hebrews 11:23-27

6/9/2024

**Introduction & Recap:** In our previous lesson, we looked at how faith prompts us to prepare. Our example for the lesson was the preparation of Noah. He trusted the Lord, and that trust led him to prepare an ark for the incoming flood. We had five takeaways during the lesson. First, we can prepare for things not yet seen because we trust the Lord. As finite people, we lack forward vision. We tend to prepare for the things that are most visible to us. This is why there are so many people who are procrastinators. It is hard to prepare for something that we do not see coming imminently. Yet, Noah was able to prepare for things not seen as yet because he trusted the Lord. Second, we can prepare because our trust in the Lord moves us to fear. The Christian ought to live a prepared life because we have a healthy fear of the Lord. We believe that He is coming back. This means that we ought to live each day with humble fear that it might be the day that we stand before the Lord. Noah’s faith in God moved him to fear that fueled his preparation. Third, we can prepare when others remain unprepared because we trust the Lord. It is very challenging to prepare for something when everyone around you seems to care little for preparation. That’s the condition that Noah found himself in. He had to prepare while everyone else in the world (outside of his family) continued on with their regular lives. Christians struggle to prepare for Heavenly things in this world because of the peer pressure that comes from the lack of preparation that everyone else has. Our faith ought to motivate us to prepare when others don’t. Fourth, we can prepare for difficult events because we trust the Lord. Most people prefer to ignore difficult events that are inbound. The believer’s trust in the Lord helps him to be prepared for such events. We understand and trust that difficult events are a part of this world we live in, and these difficult events can help to grow out our faith. Finally, we can prepare for a wonderful work because we trust the Lord. Christians ought to be prepared for great things. If we are not, it shows a lack of real trust on our part in the ability of the Lord to do a work through us. Today, we are going to look at how faith helps us to take a stand:

1. **WE CAN TAKE A STAND AGAINST UNGODLY COMMANDS BECAUSE OUR TRUST IN THE LORD CAUSES US TO NOT BE AFRAID.**

* *Hebrews 11:23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.* *Acts 5:28 Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. 29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. Exodus 1:17 But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive.* Our example for today’s lesson is the story of Moses. In it, we find that his parents were not afraid of the command of the Egyptian pharaoh. He had given an ungodly and wicked command to have the Hebrew infant boys killed. The midwives had already previously defied the command, and it’s likely that Moses’ parents saw how God blessed them and took care of them. There is a tremendous amount of pressure for the believer to obey an ungodly command. There is the fear of punishment. There is the fear of rejection and a lack of support from your peers. There may even be a fear of being painted as an ungodly person because of your stand. The disciples had to stand up against the religious council of their day.

1. **WE CAN TAKE A STAND FOR OUR BRETHREN BECAUSE WE TRUST THE LORD LOVES THEM.**

* *Acts 7:23 And when he was full forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren the children of Israel. 24 And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended him, and avenged him that was oppressed, and smote the Egyptian: 25 For he supposed his brethren would have understood how that God by his hand would deliver them: but they understood not. Exodus 2:11 And it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out unto his brethren, and looked on their burdens: and he spied an Egyptian smiting an Hebrew, one of his brethren. 12 And he looked this way and that way, and when he saw that there was no man, he slew the Egyptian, and hid him in the sand.* In Stephen’s sermon in the book of Acts, he reveals to us the thinking of Moses in his stand that he took against the Egyptian who was harming one of the Hebrew men. Moses did not have to interfere, but he did because he understood that they were a blessed people with a promise from God. He expected that his brothers would understand that God could use him and his position to help to deliver them. Unfortunately, they did not see it that way. They had a hard time seeing God’s love at that time. They were bitter in their suffering.

1. **WE CAN TAKE A STAND AGAINST OUR OWN SELF-INTERESTS BECAUSE WE TRUST THAT THE BLESSINGS OF GOD ARE MORE BENEFICIAL FOR US.**

* *Hebrews 11:24 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, 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 pleasures of sin for a season; 26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.* The book of Hebrews tells us that Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. Many Christians today would likely have criticized Moses for being foolish. They might have claimed that it was in Moses’ best interest to go along with it. After all, they could justify it by claiming that Joseph was able to have a similar position as part of God’s divine plan. Many of us would probably rationalize the open door of opportunity as something from the Lord. Yet, Moses recognized the utter compromise that would have been required of him to walk through the door of becoming the son of the pharaoh’s daughter. It would have required him to engage in wicked actions, paganism, and even the killing of his own brethren. He was able to take a stand because he counted the reproach of Christ of greater value than the treasures of Egypt.

1. **WE CAN TAKE A STEADFAST STAND OF GODLY SEPARATION, EVEN IN THE FACE OF WRATH, BECAUSE WE TRUST THAT THE LORD IS WITH US.**

* *Hebrews 11:27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible. Exodus 5:1 And afterward Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness. 14:13 And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. 14 The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.* Most Bible students agree that Egypt is a picture of the world for the believer. As Israel was called to go out of Egypt, believers are called to go out from this world. We are to separate ourselves unto the Lord. When Moses sought to separate the people from Egypt, he was met with fierce opposition from the Egyptian pharaoh. Likewise, when the believer seeks to separate themselves to God, they can expect that there will be strong opposition to that choice. The separation may require confrontation for us in the same way that it did for Moses. Yet, Moses trusted the Lord through the process. He forsook Egypt. He was not afraid of the wrath of the king. He had to endure for a time through it, but the strong resistance and wrath against him was ultimately subsided through the providential hand of the Lord. He saw the Invisible One. He saw that God was with him throughout the entire confrontation in Egypt. When they left and faced the sea, he reminded the people that God was with them. He told them that God would fight for them. He never waffled from his faith in the Lord.

1. **WE CAN TAKE A STAND AGAINST THE DISCONTENTMENT OF OTHERS BECAUSE WE TRUST THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD TOWARD US.**

* *Exodus 16:6 And Moses and Aaron said unto all the children of Israel, At even, then ye shall know that the Lord hath brought you out from the land of Egypt: 7 And in the morning, then ye shall see the glory of the Lord; for that he heareth your murmurings against the Lord: and what are we, that ye murmur against us? Numbers 12:1 And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman. 2 And they said, Hath the Lord indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us? And the Lord heard it.* From what we read in the books of Exodus and Numbers, it seems that the hardest fight that Moses had was against his own brethren and their extreme discontentment. He had to take a strong stand against their discontentment. In fact, their discontentment was so bad that it even led to his own frustration and failure. It seems that it would have been much easier for Moses to go along with the discontentment of the people toward God, but he never gave in to them. He trusted the goodness of the Lord. There is tremendous peer pressure in discontentment. It seems to be a very infectious spiritual issue. An entire generation of Israel was infected with it. Likewise, we have the fight against discontentment in front of us today. There are many Christians who enjoy complaining and murmuring against God and others. May we be bold enough in our faith to take a stand against such thinking. May our faith in His goodness affirm our contentment.