

Hebrews (April 18, 2021)

OPENING QUESTION:

SERMON DISCUSSION: How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

READ Hebrews 11:32-40

1. In chapter ten, the author of Hebrews urged his readers, "Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised." (Hebrews 10:35-36)
From Hebrews 10:32-34, note what these believers experienced when first coming to faith. For what purpose do you think the author shared about the experiences of those who came before them (Hebrews 11:32-40)?

2. What successes/achievements were accomplished through faith (Hebrews 11:32-34)?
From scripture, recall others who these successes refer to but are not mentioned by name.

3. What sufferings were endured through faith (Hebrews 11:35b-38)? From scripture, recall others who experienced such sufferings but are not mentioned in Hebrews 11 by name.

4. After reviewing these examples of exemplary faith, which resulted in both successes and sufferings, share your thoughts and the lessons you discovered.

5. “They found faith a reliable guide to the future, even though they died without experiencing the fulfillment of God’s promise (Hebrews 11:23, 39).”

(47B World Biblical Commentary-Hebrews 9-13 p.395 by William L. Lane)

What understanding did these individuals have that enabled them to endure and persevere (Hebrews 11:35, 39-40; 2 Corinthians 4:17)?

6. Who do you know or know of that would be fitting to be named in the “Hall of Faith”? How has their faith encouraged you?

7. Comment on the following quote and what this means for you:

“Faith celebrates now the reality of the future blessings that are secured by the promise of God. It recognizes that it is the future, and not the past, that molds the present. By conferring upon objects of hope the force of present realities, faith enables the people of God to enjoy the full certainty of their future realization.”

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