

Reason to Believe -
The Object of Your Faith

Introduction

Last week we talked about the great adventure of faith – letting God lead you to a place, like Abraham, where you ‘don’t know where you are going’, but you can’t wait to get there! Why is that?

“Faith never knows where it is being led, but it loves and knows the One who is leading.” – Oswald Chambers

- This is from last week’s devotional study guide, available online and now in our app.

Hebrews 12:1-2

¹ Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, 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.

- Verse 2 is the theme verse for this year’s ‘see you at the pole’ national day of prayer observed by our nations’ students.
- Verse 1 here talks about the “great cloud of witnesses”. These are the heroes of faith listed in chapter 11. We’ve already talked about four: Abel, Enoch, Noah, and Abraham. We are told they are cheering us on, as if we’re in a great stadium. Perhaps our loved ones are cheering us on.
- We are told to ‘run with endurance’ the race set before us.
 - “Grit” – marriage of passion and perseverance
- Last week on Abraham we talked about the interruption of a rest stop that becomes a stopping place in our journey of faith.
- Another interruption can come in the form of storms. They can stop us in our tracks – death, divorce, illness, a crisis of faith.

Mark 4:35-41

*³⁵ On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, “Let us cross over to the other side.” ³⁶ Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. ³⁷ And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. ³⁸ But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?” ³⁹ Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace, be still!” And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰ But He said to them, “Why are you so fearful? **How is it that you have no faith?**” ⁴¹ And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, “Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!”*

- “How is it that you have no faith?” – this is the amazing question.
- They were *supposed* to have faith because they were supposed to *look at Jesus!*
 - He was asleep!
- Storms and parents – a leadership principle.
- Jesus’ being ‘in the boat’ changes everything! How did they think the story was going to end?
 - *³⁸ But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?” ³⁹ And they all perished, Jesus and His disciples. Thus ends the gospel of Jesus Christ. Amen.*
 - *The boat cannot sink as long as Jesus is in it!* That’s why Satan always tries to get you to get out of the boat.

- 1 John 4:17 - *Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because **as He is, so are we in this world.***
 - This speaks of the level of His identification with us.
- In every situation, ‘How is Jesus doing?’
- He is the Author and the Finisher!

“Looking” unto Jesus

- Gr. - *to turn the eyes away from other things and fix them on something.*
- You are going to put your faith in *some* one.

Response

- Is Jesus in your boat?
- If you’re in a storm – *how is Jesus doing right now?*