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Andrew M. Davis

Sermon Notes

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The Faith of Moses in the Passover and the Red Sea Crossing

Hebrews 11:28-29

I. By Faith Moses Looked Ahead to Christ (vs. 26)

Hebrews 11:26 He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

II. By Faith Moses Looked Ahead to His Reward (vs. 26)

Hebrews 11:26 He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

III. By Faith Moses Feared the Invisible God More Than Visible Pharaoh (vs. 27)

Hebrews 11:27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.

A. By Faith He Left Egypt

Exodus 2:13-15 The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, "Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?" ¹⁴ The man said, "Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid and thought, "What I did must have become known." ¹⁵ When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian

B. The Anger of the King of Egypt During the Exodus

1. With every encounter, Pharaoh's pride and his rage increased
 - a. The plague on the fresh water... turning it to blood
 - b. The plague of frogs... crawling all over the land of Egypt
 - c. The plague of gnats... and then of flies... tormenting Pharaoh
 - d. The plague on the livestock... The plague of boils... The plague of hail... The plague of locusts... The plague of darkness

- e. Finally... the threatened plague on the firstborn
- 2. Culmination: Pharaoh tries to BARGAIN with Moses, for him to leave their livestock in Egypt; Moses refuses to bargain... it's COMPLETE OBEDIENCE or more plagues... Pharaoh becomes enraged and threatens to KILL Moses if he ever lays eyes on him again

Exodus 10:28-29 Pharaoh said to Moses, "Get out of my sight! Make sure you do not appear before me again! The day you see my face you will die." 29 "Just as you say," Moses replied, "I will never appear before you again."

C. Moses Persevered AS IF He Saw the Invisible God

- 1. "persevered"...
 - a. Word implies the long journey of dealing with Pharaoh through all this process
 - b. Step by step, Moses persevered through all the plagues and the negotiations with an evil tyrant... he never faltered, never gave in to intimidation
- 2. The cause of Moses' perseverance: FAITH...
- 3. "AS IF HE SAW the invisible God"
 - a. This is the best way to translate the Greek
 - b. Moses did not have some ongoing vision of God
 - c. Rather it was "AS IF" he could see the invisible God
 - d. This is FAITH, the eye-sight of the soul

D. Moses' Final Act of Courage with Pharaoh: The Red Sea Crossing

- 1. After Israel left Egypt, God hardened Pharaoh's heart one more time

Exodus 14:5-7 When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds about them and said, "What have we done? We have let the Israelites go and have lost their services!" 6 So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him. 7 He took six hundred of the best chariots, along with all the other chariots of Egypt, with officers over all of them.

Pharaoh and the greatest, most awesome army on the face of the earth found Israel by the Red Sea and trapped them there

The people cried out in terror!!!

Exodus 14:10-12 *As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the LORD. ¹¹ They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? ¹² Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians'? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!"*

2. The terror of Pharaoh overcame Israel... but not Moses!!

Exodus 14:13-14 *Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. ¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still."*

This is the mature faith of Moses... NOT FEARING THE KING'S ANGER... HE PERSEVERED AS IF SEEING HIM WHO IS INVISIBLE!!!!

IV. By Faith Moses Kept the Passover (vs. 28)

Hebrews 11:28 *By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.*

A. Before Moses Even Confronted Pharaoh:

Exodus 4:22-23 *Then say to Pharaoh, 'This is what the LORD says: Israel is my firstborn son, ²³ and I told you, "Let my son go, so he may worship me." But you refused to let him go; so I will kill your firstborn son.'*

B. The Tenth Plague: Dreadful and Deadly... Predicted to Pharaoh by Moses

Exodus 11:4-7 *So Moses said, "This is what the LORD says: 'About midnight I will go throughout Egypt. ⁵ Every firstborn son in Egypt will die, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh, who sits on the throne, to the firstborn son of the slave girl, who is at her hand mill, and all the firstborn of the cattle as well. ⁶ There will be loud wailing throughout Egypt-- worse than there has ever been or ever will be again. ⁷ But among the Israelites not a dog will bark at any man or animal.' Then you will know that the LORD makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel.*

C. The Only Remedy: The Shedding AND Application of the Blood

Exodus 12:3-7 *Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. ⁴ If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. ⁵ The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you*

may take them from the sheep or the goats. ⁶ Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. ⁷ Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs.

D. By Faith Moses KEPT the Passover and the Sprinkling of the Blood

1. By faith , Moses killed the lamb... trusting God that it would be effective
2. By faith, Moses applied the blood on their doorposts... trusting God that it would be effective
3. By faith, then, Moses FEARED THE COMING WRATH OF GOD

“Faith is the ASSURANCE of things hoped for, the REBUKE of things not seen”

- a. Both the coming danger AND the remedy had to be accepted BY FAITH
- b. The coming danger was INVISBLE
- c. The connection between the blood of the lamb and the rescue from wrath was INVISIBLE...
- d. Only by faith could this be done
4. By faith, then, Moses DID NOT REST ON HIS GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD or His privileged status
5. By faith, Moses knew that, without the shedding of the blood of the Lamb, Israel also would deserve to die

Exodus 12:13 The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

Exodus 12:23 When the LORD goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down.

6. By faith, Moses and Israel obeyed these instructions and were SAVED

Exodus 12:28 The Israelites did just what the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron.

Exodus 12:29-30 At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon, and the firstborn of all the livestock as well. ³⁰ Pharaoh and all his officials and all the Egyptians got up during the night, and

there was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead.

7. By faith, Moses knew the SHED and APPLIED BLOOD provided the ONLY SAFE HAVEN of REFUGE from the WRATH OF GOD

Exodus 12:22 Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. Not one of you shall go out the door of his house until morning.

8. Ultimately, by faith, Moses OBEYED THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST!!!

John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

Romans 3:23-25 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵ God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood.

V. By Moses' Faith the People Passed Through the Red Sea (vs. 28)

Hebrews 11:29 By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.

A. The Final Act of the Drama with Pharaoh

1. The tenth plague had its deadly effect
2. Loud wailing throughout Egypt
3. The Jews ate the Passover and the unleavened bread IN HASTE
4. One of the most dramatic nights in history

B. The Exodus

1. Pharaoh drove the people out
2. The Jews plundered the Egyptians
3. The Jews left Egypt boldly and openly
4. They were guided by God to the Red Sea for specific reasons

Exodus 14:1-3 Then the LORD said to Moses, ² "Tell the Israelites to turn back and encamp near Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. They are to encamp by the sea, directly opposite Baal Zephon. ³ Pharaoh will think, 'The Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert.'

C. God Hardened Pharaoh's Heart One More Time

Exodus 14:4 And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD." So the Israelites did this.

Exodus 14:5-8 When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds about them and said, "What have we done? We have let the Israelites go and have lost their services!" ⁶ So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him. ⁷ He took six hundred of the best chariots, along with all the other chariots of Egypt, with officers over all of them. ⁸ The LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, so that he pursued the Israelites, who were marching out boldly.

D. Here in Hebrews 11... we see also the BENEFITS of SOMEONE ELSE'S FAITH

Hebrews 11:29 By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.

1. When the people saw Pharaoh's army, they were TERRIFIED, not faith-filled

Exodus 14:10-12 As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the LORD. ¹¹ They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? ¹² Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians'? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!"

2. Moses steadied them by his own faith and pointed them to the invisible God who was fighting for them

Exodus 14:13-14 Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. ¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still."

3. One person's faith can be an instrument for another's
 - a. Moses led Israel from fear to faith
 - b. He persuaded them to trust in God
 - c. It was BY HIS FAITH that they also had the faith to make the Red Sea crossing

E. Israel Trusted God and God Fought for them

1. All night long, God protected Israel from the enraged Pharaoh and his awesome army

Exodus 14:19-20 Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, ²⁰ coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

2. He put a pillar of fire between them so that Pharaoh could not kill Israel as he wanted to do... and he hardened Pharaoh's heart not to give up

F. By Faith, the Parting of the Sea

Exodus 14:21-22 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, ²² and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

G. By Faith, The Crossing on Dry Ground

1. Imagine the scene... the awesome waters walled up on the left and the right by some INVISIBLE FORCE...
2. they were ready at any moment to fall back down upon them and crush them

From an engineering point of view, to hold back this much water required an incredible amount of force... looked up the formula for the force on dam face

In this equation, the force is in pounds when the width and depth are in feet.

If the Red Sea was 250 feet deep and if the crossing was eleven miles long, the pressure on each side would have been approximately 113 billion pounds... a total of 226 billion pounds of force exerted by God to keep the water in place like a wall

Hoover Dam:

726.4 feet high (221m)

1,244 feet wide (379 m)

660 feet (203 m) thick at the base

45 feet (13 m) thick at the top

\$165 million dollars to build

4.5 years to build

4.4 million yards of concrete used for construction

21.1 billion pounds total force on Hoover dam face ... God held back ten times that force with an invisible barrier

A Nimitz-class aircraft carrier weighs 97,000 tons... God basically held back the equivalent force of water to lifting 1167 aircraft carriers!!

3. Only by faith in God could the people make this crossing!!
4. And by faith, they DID: over two million strong... crossing by foot on dry ground

H. BUT the Egyptians Were Drowned

... when the Egyptians tried to do so they were drowned

1. The clear distinction between Israel and Egypt: faith vs. faithlessness
2. God fought against them and they were destroyed

Exodus 14:23-28 The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. ²⁴ During the last watch of the night the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. ²⁵ He made the wheels of their chariots come off so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt." ²⁶ ¶ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen." ²⁷ Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the LORD swept them into the sea. ²⁸ The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen-- the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.

3. A clear warning against faithlessness... REMEMBER THE WHOLE POINT HERE!!

Hebrews 10:38-39 But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him." ³⁹ ¶ But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.

I. Not All Who Crossed the Red Sea were Saved

1. Paul makes this very clear in 1 Corinthians 10:

1 Corinthians 10:1-5 For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. ² They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. ³ They all ate the same spiritual food ⁴ and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank

from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered over the desert.

2. Just because you have the outer trappings of faith doesn't mean you are genuinely born again
3. Church attendance won't save you any more than passing through the Red Sea saved that generation of Jews
4. Paul's lesson: RUN THE RACE WITH ENDURANCE

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.²⁶ Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air.²⁷ No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

5. This especially means fighting personal sin and idolatry

1 Corinthians 10:6-14 Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did.⁷ Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry."⁸ We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did-- and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died.⁹ We should not test the Lord, as some of them did-- and were killed by snakes.¹⁰ And do not grumble, as some of them did-- and were killed by the destroying angel.¹¹ These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come.¹² So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!¹³ No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.¹⁴ ¶ Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry.

6. So also the lesson of Hebrews:

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

VI. Applications

A. Come to Christ

1. The passage celebrates Moses' faith at the time of the Exodus

2. The real focus was on Christ... deliverance from WRATH and the giving of a reward!!!
 3. By faith you have both the NEGATIVE and the POSITIVE
- B. Christians: Cherish your Deliverance from Wrath AND Delight in your Future Rewards
- C. Look Ahead to Christ... His Second Coming, the Wrath He Will Pour Out on the World, the Rewards He will Give
- D. By Faith, Learn to Conquer Your Fear of People

Proverbs 29:25 Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.

1. Be willing to suffer for Christ
 2. Be willing to speak up against injustice
 3. Be willing to stand up against abortion
 4. Be willing to speak the gospel to a boss or co-worker or scary neighbor
 5. By faith, SEE HIM WHO IS INVISIBLE... and fear God more than you fear man
 6. By faith, LIVE FOR DELIGHTING GOD more than delighting man
- E. By Faith Obey God
1. Moses kept the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood though it may have seemed foolish
 2. Study God's word enough to know His will... then DO IT by faith
- F. By Faith FINISH YOUR RACE!!!
1. Flee idolatry
 2. Run with perseverance