



“By faith the people crossed the sea” - Hebrews 11:29

Scripture: Read Hebrews 11: 32-40 / Hebrews 12:1-2

- The final passage of chapter 11, speaks to many more Old Testament heroes of faith. A few are mentioned by name - Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, and Samuel. These are found in the book of Judges and 1 Samuel. Search the Scriptures to discover why their faith was recognized in this way.

- Many others are mentioned, though unnamed. Can you identify them?

- “Stopped the mouths of lions” (Daniel 6:22) _____
- “Quenched the power of fire” (Daniel 3:19-30) _____
- “Escaped the edge of the sword” (1 Kings 19:1-3, 2 Kings 6:15-19)

- “Made strong out of weakness” (Judges 3:12-30, Judges 4:17-24, Isaiah 38:1-6)

- “Received back their dead” (1 Kings 17:22, 2 Kings 3:34)

- “Others - mocking, flogging, chains, and imprisonment” (Genesis 39:20, 1 Kings 22:27, 2 Kings 2:23, 2 Chronicles 16:10, Jeremiah 20:1-6; 37:15, 2 Chronicles 36:16)

Equipping

- The author of Hebrews has spent much effort describing the many examples of faith. Why do you think it's important that we appreciate each of these examples and the reasons for which they are recognized? What if the author had simply said, "Many of God's people demonstrated great faith, now be like them."

- Chapter 12:1-2 begins with "Therefore, since ..." Undoubtedly, this indicates that the author is saying, "Ok, so everything I have just written you regarding these champions of godly fear, obedience, and faith, you are to do something with it." What are we supposed to do with chapter 11? What was the content of chapter 11 "there for?"

- What are the "weights" and "sins" that are entangling you and keeping you from running the race that is set before you? (Hebrews 12:1) Who does the author say is the object of our faith, who makes our faith carry through to perfection? (12:2)

Application

- Reflecting on Hebrews Chapter 11:1 - 12:2, what has most resonated with you over these past few weeks? Is there any aspect of faith for which you have grown or desire to grow? Are you anchored in the idea that "Faith is ... assurance of things hoped for ... conviction of things not seen?"
