

## Emmanuel Service

14.3.21

### Mothing Sunday

#### Service Order:

Welcome

Mothering Sunday

Song: Lost is found

All Age Slot

JAM and Pathfinders to Zoom groups

Prayers: Brian and Joan Mayhew

Creed

Brian's Hero of the faith

Reading: Joan Mayhew

Sermon

Song: We have this treasure from the Lord our God

Closing Prayer

Song: His Mercy is More

#### Sermon Notes:

##### The Faith Honours List

##### Hebrews 11v23-31

The Government have given us a roadmap out of lockdown

- Dates which will be the earliest that restrictions will be lifted
- It's what we want – someone to say what the plan is, to tell us when it will be safe to come out again.
- But one thing the last year has taught us is that no one knows what things will be like and we can't predict how things will be even in 1 week's time.
- The roadmap ends at our feet – every step is a step into an unknown future.
- We look to put our faith in various people to give us reassurance: Political Leaders, Scientists and we try to do it for ourselves, trying to keep ourselves safe, but we are all fallible and none knows the future.
- We need then to turn to the one who holds the future and to put our faith in him. But what does it mean to live trusting in God? Here's where we turn to the next people in the Faith Honours list.
- We learn 3 things from them about what it means to live by faith...

#### 1. Faith not Fear v23

- We see Moses' parents – have a read of Exodus chapters 1-2 to see what happened.
- They hid Moses without fearing the King's edict
- The readers of Hebrews needed to hear this because it seems they were shrinking back in fear having started so fearlessly (see Hebrews 10:32-39).
- We too can be dominated by fears – maybe you find this.
  - Fear of illness, death, abandonment, loneliness, people, disaster.
  - We play out terrible scenarios in our minds.
  - And so our actions are often determined by our fears.
- But Moses' parents are an example to us – not fearing but having faith
  - Which doesn't mean we have failed if we fear, but rather that we are to tackle those fears with faith.

#### 2. Long Term Reward not Short Term Sin v24-27

- Moses was adopted by Pharaoh's daughter and grew up in the luxury of a palace
- But the verses in Hebrews tell us that he refused the luxury in order to be mis-treated with the people of God

- This probably refers to the choice he made in Exodus 2 when he killed the Egyptian who was mistreating a fellow Israelite.
- The choice is similar to one we are called to make – will we go for the instant pleasures of sin or be prepared to suffer along with God’s people?
- The readers of Hebrews needed this challenge in their temptation to give up.
- And we need to see the realism of temptation – sin is pleasurable (if it weren’t no one would do it!).
  - Drunkenness, adulterous affairs, slandering others or trampling over others to get what we want – they all give an instant buzz.
  - But they are all short term – even if they last this lifetime, they are only temporary.
- How did Moses make the right choice? See v25 – he looked ahead to his reward.
- We too are to look forward to and live for a future reward.
  - Maybe you find the idea of a reward a bit mercenary – should we be living for our own reward?
  - A quote from CS Lewis’ sermon ‘The Weight of Glory’:  
*Indeed, if we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires, not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.*
- The Bible is unashamed in holding out future rewards for those who are faithful
  - So we need to have the long term in view.
  - Are there things you need to stop doing which are short term sinful pleasures?
  - Will you live for the long term rewards from God and so be prepared even to suffer for your faith along with God’s people around the world?

### 3. Trust God’s Ultimate Deliverance v28-31

- We now see 4 examples of God delivering his people
  - v28 Moses and the Israelites slaughtered the Passover lambs and put the blood on the doorposts (see Exodus 11-12)
  - v29 The Israelites walked through the Red Sea (see Exodus 14)
  - v30 The marching round Jericho (see Joshua 6)
  - v31 Rahab welcoming the spies (see Joshua 2)
- In each case God delivered his people and gave them victory.
- In each case God’s people had to demonstrate their trust in God.
- We too are to trust God for our ultimate deliverance:
  - Jesus, who is the one the Passover lamb pointed to, was sacrificed so that all who trust in Him will be delivered from final judgment and be brought safely to the promised land of the New Creation.
  - We are called now to put our trust in Him – in his sacrifice made 2000 years ago for a deliverance in the future.
  - It may seem a crazy act of faith to trust in Jesus’ sacrifice – but we all choose to put our trust in something (Governments, scientists, ourselves) and the only one we can rely on is Jesus, and he calls us to trust him for the next steps of our lives and to bring us to his ultimate deliverance through trusting in His death.

So let’s join Moses’ parents, Moses, The Israelites, and Rahab in going forward trusting the Lord which means...

- Faith not Fear
- Long term reward not short term sin
- Trusting in God’s ultimate deliverance