

Message Summary

This time of the year especially, germs are ubiquitous. We can't see them, but we know they are real. Though we can't see the essence of God, He is more real than what our physical eyes can see. Until we learn to have a faith focus, we'll never be able to walk faithfully or see God clearly. Our faith must move beyond what we can see with our eyes. God desires for us to live faithfully fearless and obedient lives as we look to Him to do even the humanly impossible on our behalf for His glory and our good.

Hebrews continues with the exemplar Moses, whose faith caused him to leave his royal privilege and comfort to Midian (v. 27). God's call was to prepare Moses for something greater, a process that would be worked out over forty years by himself in the Midianite desert. In our journey of faith, we often must wait for God to do the work of preparation over the long haul. His plan is way bigger than our limited perspective can see, touch, or feel. God used Moses' time in Midian to give him a wife (Zipporah) and a job (a shepherd for Jethro's sheep). Ordinary, small, mundane tasks for a full forty years were God's plan to prepare Moses for the leadership he would take in saving God's very people from Egyptian bondage. In these things, Moses did not allow fear to dictate or control his obedience to God.

Similarly, Moses' faith yielded obedience to God's commands (v. 28). The Passover sheltered the faith-filled Israelites who from faith obeyed God's command to paint a lamb's blood over their doorposts. The lamb pointed forward to God's plan of redemption for all time, the glory of His Son Jesus who would shed His own blood to shelter us from God's wrath. Faith follows this pattern of obedience in everyday life, scrupulously following God's commands out of love and discipleship for God our Savior.

Moses' leadership effected faithful obedience in Israel as they crossed the Red Sea in faith. At the last minute, miraculously, God rescues His people. Faith, not their works, enabled the Israelites to see God's hand behind their deliverance. Indeed, faith is all about knowing and seeing God. In response, the Israelites sang praises to the God who had delivered them (Ex. 15).

WHY IT MATTERS

Digging Deeper

Why is it such a temptation to focus on the visible in place of the invisible? Consider especially Mt. 14:22-33; Col. 3:1-17.

Moses' sense of justice drove him to defend an Israelite against an Egyptian oppressor, and later a group of women from attacking shepherds. Is there righteous anger of justice Christians should feel today? What may be some expressions of this anger?

How does the blood on the doorposts point forward to Christ? How should our response to Christ mirror the Israelites' meticulous obedience?

NOW WHAT DO WE DO?

Group Discussion & Application

Use the following questions to examine what the sermon and its text mean, to apply the Word to your life, and to guide how you pray. Please note that you don't have to use all of the questions. These are just options (along with the digging deeper section) to help you frame the family/small group discussion.

1. Has God led you, or is He now leading you, through a "Midianite desert" time of preparation? Are you patient through the process, or are you only wishing to get through it?

2. Do you have a “faith focus” that lets you see beyond the visible to the invisible? Or are you too inclined to look around at what you can only see with your eyes?
3. Are you prone to be afraid or anxious about what you can see, the fear of man? Are you letting people dictate the direction of your life?
4. Do you struggle with discontentment over roles that seem mediocre, such as Moses keeping Jethro’s sheep? What does Moses’ story teach about God’s using these roles?
5. Do you welcome others around you to follow Christ, as the Israelites left Egypt with a mixed multitude of Jews and Gentiles? Are you discriminatory or apathetic toward those around you?
6. Do you trust in the visible kingdom you have made here on earth? Are you deceived by what your eyes can see, or are you delighted by what God is doing in the unseen?
7. Are you more delighted over God’s deliverance than earthly delights such as football games?
8. Are you faithful to worship God in response to His salvation? Do you embrace musical worship as an expression of praise (cf. Ps. 150)?

Prayer

- Pray for Our Church:
 - Thank God for sending Christ, our Passover Lamb, to be crucified in our place and cover our sins with His blood (cf. Jn. 1:29-34; 1 Cor. 5:6-8)
 - Pray that our church would know and see God with eyes of faith, living fearless and obedient lives as we look to God to do the humanly impossible
- Pray for Our Community:
 - Pray for the new CF College Class, Christian Apologetics 101. Pray that God would use it to strengthen the faith of believers and provide additional tools to share and defend the gospel of grace to those in our community
 - Pray that our community would look beyond what is seen to what is unseen, and have a hunger to go beyond the visible to the invisible.
- Pray for Our World:
 - Pray for Jeff and Misti Fairchild as they visit for the holidays. Pray that they would be refreshed and encouraged by their time with family and energized for their ministry as they move as full-time missionaries in January.