**Sermon Title: Examples of Courage**

**Sermon Text: Hebrews 11:32-40**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer into a pattern of intentional growth and maturity in their relationship and fellowship with Jesus Christ.**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 4 examples of courageous faith that lead to maturity in faith.**

**Introduction:**

“A University Professor once boasted, ‘One of my callings in life is to shatter the faith of naïve fundamentalists as they come to my class. Just give me a room of young, naïve evangelicals and let me at ‘em. You can just watch them drop like flies hit with Raid when I challenge their faith in a deliberate, consistent manner.”

[**Charles R. Swindoll, Swindoll’s Ultimate Book of Illustrations & Quotes, Thomas Nelson, 1998, p.195**]

Following in the footsteps of the faithful, with courage (**Hebrews 10:35-39**). Hebrews shows that because the Old Covenant has been fulfilled in the New Covenant, the New Covenant is actually “better” (**Hebrews 7:22; Hebrews 1:1-4**).

The New Covenant was made superior by the ministry of Jesus Christ. The author of Hebrews wanted to exalt Jesus Christ. He wants to move believers from a stagnant state to growth.

**I. The mixed vehicles of courageous faith. V.32**

**II. The multiplied victories of courageous faith. V.33-35**

**III. The messy visuals of courageous faith. Vv.36-38**

**IV. The multicolored vitality of courageous faith. Vv.39-40**

**I. The mixed vehicles of courageous faith. V.32**

 (**Hebrews 11:1; 11:6, 13, 16; Judges 4:6-24**)

 Each individual the writer of Hebrews mentions, under the divine inspiration of God, was less than perfect, just like every believer. But God approved of them because they were faithful to Him!

**II. The multiplied victories of courageous faith. V.33-35**

 (**Hebrews 11:6; Book of James**)

 v. 33 Who through faith (trusting)

 Subdued kingdoms (**Daniel 6:22**)

 Conquered the kingdoms of the Amorites and of Bashan (**Numbers 21:21-25**)

 Worked righteousness

 Obtained promises

 Stopped the mouth of lions, Daniel shut the mouth of lions (**Daniel 6:1-29**)

 v.34 Quenched the violence of fire, Shaddrakk, Meishakk, and Avenden’go quenched the power of fire

 (**Daniel 1:6; 3:1-30**)

 Escaped the edge of the sword, Elijah and Elisha escaped the edge of the sword

 (**1 Kings 19:2ff; 2 Kings 6:31ff**)

 Out of weakness were made strong,

 Became reliant in battle,

 Turned to fight the armies of the aliens (**Daniel 3:23-28**)

 V.35 Women

 Received their dead raised to life again.

 The widow of Zarephath and the Shunamite woman received back their dead resurrected

 (**1 Kings 17:8-24; 2 Kings 4:8-37**)

 And others were tortured,

 Not accepting deliverance,

 That they might obtain a better resurrection (**1 Kings 17:22; Acts 22:25**)

 A. Faith **obeys** the Word. (**James 1:19-27**)

 B. Faith **removes** discrimination. (**James 2:1-13**)

 C. Faith **proves** itself by works. (**James 2:14-26**)

 D. Faith **controls** the tongue. (**James 3:1-12**)

 **James 3:4-8** Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. **5** Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! **6** And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. **7** For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. **8** But no man can tame the tongue. *It is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

 E. Faith **produces** wisdom. (**James 3:13-18**)

 F. Faith **produces** humility. (**James 4:1-12**)

 **James 4:4-10** Adulterers andadulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. **5** Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously "? **6** But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble1." **7** Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. **8** Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded. **9** Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom. **10** Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

 G. Faith produces **dependence** on God. (**James 4:13-17; 5:1-6**)

 **James 4:15-17** Instead you *ought* to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that."

 **16** But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. **17** Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do *it*, to him it is sin.

 H. Faith **endures** awaiting the return of Christ. (**James 5:7-12**)

 **James 5:7-8** Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See *how* the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. **8** You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

 I. Faith **prays** for the afflicted. (**James 13-18**)

 **James 5:16** Confess *your* trespasses1 to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

 J. Faith **confronts** an erring brother. (**James 5:19-20**)

**III. The messy visuals of courageous faith. Vv.36-38**

 Faith does not result in deliverance in every case. Sometimes the faithful person’s reward or deliverance comes on the other side of eternity.

 Those who accept these times in life without forsaking their trust and commitment to Jesus Christ, living with courageous faith, are those the world is not worthy of, because they refuse to turn from following God even under the severest of situations and circumstances.

**IV. The multicolored vitality of courageous faith. Vv.39-40**

 **v.39** All these witnesses had their courage and merit testified to because of their trusting in the promises, provisions, power, and presence of God.

 Although some Old Testament promises were fulfilled, their true hope was in the coming of the Messiah, who for them was yet to come, but for us has come.

 **v.40** Having provided something better for us, which speaks of God’s plan (mystery) for history.

 **Romans 11:25-26** For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. **26** And so all Israel will be saved1, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;

 **Romans 16:25-26** Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began **26** but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith—

 Which involves the perfecting, salvation, and security of His people for all times, places, cultures and ethnic groups.

 **Hebrews 5:9** And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,