

SERMON OUTLINE

In Hebrews 11:32-40, we are shown 3 faithful responses of Old Testament saints.

- I. Old Testament saints accomplished great things by faith (vs. 32-35a).
- II. Old Testament saints suffered great things by faith (vs. 35b-38).
- III. Old Testament saints awaited better things by faith (vs. 39-40).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, April 25, 2021

Passage: Hebrews 11:32-40

Memory Passage: Hebrews 11:39-40

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Heb. 11:32-40.** What primary grammatical change do you notice in these verses compared to 11:1-31?
- (b) Why does our author ask the question, “And what more shall I say?” and why will “time fail” him to speak more?
- (c) Write down what you know about the 6 men mentioned in v. 32 (if you need help, see: Gideon—Judges 6:11-8:35; Barak—Judges 4-5; Samson—Judges 13-16; Jephthah—Judges 11:1-12:7; David—Many! Samuel: 1 Samuel 1-16 et al.).
- (d) What surprises you about this list of men? If you only read the Biblical account of each of them, would you include them in a list of faithful people? Why or why not?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Heb. 11:32-40.** Why do you think the list in v. 32 is listed out of chronological order (do you see the first 6 as pairs)? And is there a relationship between Samuel and the prophets since they are listed next to each other?
- (b) Verses 33-34 contain 9 acts accomplished “through faith” grouped in 3 groups of 3. Explain how each group of 3 is internally related to each other (i.e. how do the first 3 relate to each other, how do the 2nd 3 relate to each other, etc.)?
- (c) For each of these 9 acts, what OT characters come to mind to which the act could refer?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Heb. 11:32-40.** Which women “received back their dead by resurrection” (cf. 1 Kgs. 17:17-21 & 2 Kgs. 4:17-37)?
- (b) Which OT saints come to mind for each of the mistreatments mentioned in vs. 35b-38?
- (c) For what purpose does our author mention these mistreatments (think of his purpose in writing to his original audience)?
- (d) Why are all these examples of faith people “of whom the world is not worthy?”

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Heb. 11:32-40.** What in the text demonstrates that v. 39 form an inclusio (bookends) with v. 2?
- (b) What promise did these OT saints not receive, even though God commended them through their faith (v. 39)?
- (c) Verse 33 informs us that the list of OT saints found in v. 32 “obtained promises.” Explain the difference between the promises obtained in v. 33 and the promise not received in v. 39.
- (d) Verse 34 closes this passage with a common theme from Hebrews: “something better.” To what does “something better” refer in this verse, and why is the perfection of OT saints not attainable “apart from us?”

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Heb. 11:32-40.** Notice the passive nature of the acts in vs. 32-33, whether grammatical (e.g. “were made strong;” “were made mighty”) or realistically (e.g. did Daniel’s 3 friends quench the fire or did God?). What does this list of accomplishments and sufferings tell you about God and His work?
- (b) In what ways can you take comfort and encouragement from the way God acted through His people in vs. 32-33 as you think about the world around us and our role as believers in this world?
- (c) In what ways can you take comfort and encouragement from the suffering experienced by saints of old (vs.35b-38)?
- (d) In what ways do these verses reveal and point us toward Christ?
- (e) Write down at least 4 personal applications flowing from the ways you have been comforted and encouraged (b, c above).

DATE: April 25, 2021

PASSAGE: Hebrews 11:32-40

Those of Whom the World Was Not Worthy