

“By Faith”

Hebrews 11:23-31

Last Week – Part 5

A Faith That Finishes

- I. **BY FAITH MOSES, THE NATION OF ISRAEL, AND RAHAB – vs. 23-31**
 - A. Faith that shelters – vs. 23; Ex. 2:2-10
 - B. Faith that surrenders – vs. 24-26; Ex. 2:11; Acts 7:21-24
 - C. Faith that stands – vs. 27; Ex. 10:28-29

Part 6

A Faith That Finishes (part 2)

- D. **Faith that submits – vs. 28; Exodus 12**

“He kept the Passover”

Exodus 12:7

⁷ And they shall take of the blood, and strike *it* on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.

Exodus 12:12-13

¹² For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I *am* the LORD. ¹³ And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye *are*: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy *you*, when

| I smite the land of Egypt.

- In this verse, faith is seen in an act of obedient submission to God's specific instruction – the keeping of the Passover.
- This was not a suggestion or tradition – it was a command from God that required precise obedience, and the consequences for disobedience were life or death.

1. **Faith submits to God's plan of protection.**

- a) *"Kept the Passover"* – Greek verb πεποίηκεν (perfect tense): completed obedience with lasting effect.
- b) Obedience involved sacrifice, carefulness, and urgency (Exodus 12).
- c) Faith trusts that God's way is the only way of deliverance – even if it seems strange.

Exodus 12:28

²⁸ And the children of Israel went away, and did as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron, so did they.

2. **Faith doesn't substitute its own ideas.**

- a) No one in Israel had seen this before. It may not have made sense. But faith submits to what God says, not what man would prefer.
 - b) The only safeguard that night was faith in God's word, expressed through obedience.
- *Submission is the evidence of trust. Real faith doesn't argue – it obeys.*

3. **Submission always precedes salvation.**

- a) Moses obeyed before the plague came.
- b) Submission always precedes salvation.

Submission to God's way is the posture of saving faith. Moses and Israel didn't invent their own method of escape – they obeyed the specific word of the Lord. Had they refused to apply the blood, they would have perished.

This is not works-based salvation, but the reality that true faith submits to God's revealed means of salvation.

Romans 10:3

³ For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

→ Salvation requires submission to God's way, not self-made efforts.

James 4:6-7

⁶ But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. ⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

→ Grace is extended to the humble – submission is a matter of posture, not payment.

Luke 18:13-14

¹³ And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as *his* eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. ¹⁴ I tell you, this man

went down to his house justified *rather* than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

→ The publican, not the Pharisee, went home justified – because he came in humble dependence, not self-righteous pride.

Hebrews 5:9

⁹ And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

→ This “obedience” is the obedience of faith (Romans 1:5), not merit, but *believing submission* to the gospel.

Many want God’s blessing, but few want God’s boundaries.

Moses submitted. Israel obeyed. And judgment passed them by.

Faith submits – not just when it's easy, but when it's essential.

E. Faith that saves – vs. 29; Exodus 14

1. Faith obeys when the path is unclear.

- a) God told Moses to lift his rod and Israel to go forward (Exodus 14:15-16).

Exodus 14:15-16

¹⁵ And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward: ¹⁶ But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel

shall go on dry *ground* through the midst of the sea.

- b) The sea had not yet parted – but faith moved when God said move.
- c) This was not reckless – it was obedient trust in God’s Word.

2. **Faith trusts God in the impossible.**

- a) The Red Sea was an impossible obstacle – but God made a way through.
- b) Faith didn’t create the dry ground – but it walked where God opened the way.

Exodus 14:21-22

²¹ And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go *back* by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry *land*, and the waters were divided.
²² And **the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry *ground***: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

3. **Faith is more than imitation.**

- a) The Egyptians “assaying to do” were drowned – they tried to mimic Israel’s faith, but without God’s Word or covenant.
- b) This shows the danger of presumption: copying God’s people without trusting in God Himself.

➤ *God doesn’t honor imitation – He honors obedience born of faith.*

4. **Faith that saves and faith that sustains**

- a) Israel's Red Sea crossing pictures deliverance by faith, but also the daily walk of faith every believer must continue.
- b) The same faith that led them out had to lead them through.
- c) Believers still face Red Sea moments – when fear says freeze, enemies press in, and God simply says, "Go forward."

➤ The Red Sea was not just a salvation event – it was a faith training ground. And God still brings His people to places where the only way forward... is faith.

Exodus 14:15

¹⁵ And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward:

Hebrews 10:38

³⁸ Now the just shall live by faith: but if *any man* draw back, his soul shall have no pleasure in him.

2 Corinthians 5:7

⁷ (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

Colossians 2:6

⁶ As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

F. Faith that surrounds – vs. 30; Joshua 6

"By faith...they were compassed about"

Joshua 6:3

³ And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days.

Joshua 6:20

²⁰ **So the people shouted** when *the priests* blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, **that the wall fell down flat**, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.

- Jericho marked the first obstacle in the Promised Land – fortified, walled, humanly impossible.
- But faith surrounded the city without battering rams, or weaponry – just obedience.

1. **Faith obeys even when it seems foolish.**

- a) God's command to march around the city made no sense militarily – but faith doesn't operate by human logic.
- b) What mattered was not strategy but submission.
- c) Faith sometimes means doing the simple thing faithfully until God moves.

2. **Faith waits while obeying**

- a) The people had to keep walking – day after day – with no visible results.
- b) It was not their strength, but their obedience, that brought the victory.
- c) The Greek participle for “compassed about” – “*κυκλωθέντα*” – (having been encircled) puts the emphasis on the action done in advance – *they walked first, then God brought the wall down.*

➤ *“Faith is not just about the outcome – it's about*

the obedience that leads to it."

3. Faith gains the victory

- a) Jericho represents obstacles in the believer's journey – "strong holds" we can't tear down in our own power.

2 Corinthians 10:4

⁴ (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

- b) Faith "surrounds" the problem in obedience, waiting on God to help us gain the victory.
- c) Sometimes faith marches without explanation and trusts without timetable.

➤ Believers today must learn to walk in circles when God says so – not aimlessly, but faithfully, knowing the wall will fall in God's timing, not ours.

When the strongholds don't fall on day one... will you still walk on day six?

- d) Jericho's walls didn't fall because of volume or violence – they fell because of faithful obedience.

God still honors the faith that keeps walking even when it feels like nothing is changing.

G. Faith that spares – vs. 31; Joshua 2 and 6

"By faith...Rahab perished not"

- Rahab's inclusion in Hebrews 11 (as well as in the lineage of Jesus Himself) is remarkable – a Gentile, a woman, a harlot, living in a city

doomed for destruction... yet spared by faith.

- Her story reminds us that faith is not limited by background, past, or reputation – it is available to anyone who believes and responds to God’s truth.

1. **Rahab’s faith was rooted in what she heard.**

- a) She had not seen the Red Sea parted or Egypt overthrown – but she had heard.
- b) Her words in Joshua 2:10-11 show a deep belief in the supremacy of Israel’s God.

Joshua 2:10-11

¹⁰ For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that *were* on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed. ¹¹And as soon as we had heard *these things*, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the LORD your God, he *is* God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.

2. **Rahab’s faith was proven by what she did.**

- a) She risked her life to hide the spies (Joshua 2:4) and tied the scarlet cord in her window as instructed (Joshua 2:18, 21).
- b) This is obedient, active faith – the same kind of faith James says justifies in the sight of men (James 2:25).
- c) Her faith wasn’t silent – it produced action and resulted in rescue.

3. **Rahab's faith set her apart from the city around her.**

- a) Our text says she "perished not with them that believed not."
- b) Her survival wasn't luck – it was faith.
- c) She was surrounded by people who had every opportunity to repent (Joshua 6:1-2), but they chose defiance over belief.

(1) They had witnessed or heard of God's power for decades.

Joshua 2:10

¹⁰ For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed.

- This refers to events 40 years earlier (Exodus 14), meaning that the people of Canaan had plenty of time to process what God was doing.
- Rahab says "*our hearts did melt...*" (2:11) – not just her heart, but collectively, the people were terrified.

→ This implies awareness, not ignorance.

(2) Their fear proves knowledge – but not faith.

Joshua 2:11

¹¹ And as soon as we had heard *these things*, our hearts did melt, neither did

there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the LORD your God, he *is* God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.

- Fear swept through Jericho. But fear alone does not equal repentance.
- They could have humbled themselves, as Rahab did.
- Instead, they hardened their hearts and fortified their city.

(3) Jericho had time to respond before judgment fell.

Joshua 6:1

¹ Now Jericho was straitly shut up because of the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in.

- This verse shows the city was on lockdown, not preparing to surrender, but to resist.
- They had seven days of Israel marching around their walls, silent but visible.

→ This could have been a final window of opportunity to respond.

- Remember: God often gives space for repentance before judgment (cf. Revelation 2:21).

Revelation 2:21

²¹ And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.

(4) Rahab proves they could have responded

- Rahab is the biblical counterexample – a citizen of Jericho who heard, believed, and acted in faith.
- She wasn't visited by angels, prophets, or priests – she just heard the reports and feared God rightly (Proverbs 1:7).

Proverbs 1:7

⁷ The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge: *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction.

- If she could believe, so could others.
4. Rahab's faith is a reminder for both the lost and the saved.
- a) To the lost: No matter your past, your failures, or what others call you – faith in God can rescue, redeem, and rewrite your story.
 - b) To the believer: Rahab reminds us that faith must act – not just in the big decisions, but in the daily ones. God still uses the unlikely.
- Faith spared Rahab from destruction – and brought her into the line of redemption. No one is beyond the reach of God's grace. Her faith proves that even when judgment is near, salvation is still available to those who believe and obey.
 - Rahab's scarlet cord in the window became a symbol of salvation, much like the blood on the doorposts at Passover. She believed, she obeyed, and she was spared. And today, the same God still saves those who

put their faith in Him.

Conclusion to this point:

Each step in this passage reveals a people learning to trust not in themselves, but in the promises of God.

- Faith **shelters** when danger is near.
- Faith **surrenders** to God's will above the world's rewards.
- Faith **stands** when fear and opposition close in.
- Faith **submits** to God's Word, even when it's strange or difficult.
- Faith **saves** – not because of works, but because it trusts the only way of deliverance.
- Faith **surrounds** the impossible in obedience, waiting on God to work.
- And faith **saves** – even the most unlikely – when that faith is placed in a merciful and mighty God.

These aren't just stories of ancient heroes – they are examples for us, written that we might run our race with the same kind of faith.

As Hebrews 12:1-2 reminds us:

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight... and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus...”

That's what this faith is all about:

Not just starting strong...

But finishing faithfully – by keeping our eyes on the One who is the Author and Finisher of our faith.

So the question is this:

Will you walk by faith when the path isn't clear?
Will you trust God when the walls haven't fallen?
Will you surrender to His way even when the world offers
its best?

If you want to finish well... then walk by faith – from
beginning to end.

II. THROUGH FAITH MANY OTHERS – vs. 32-39

A.