

FAITH TOGETHER

Hebrews 11: Moses and The Lamb.

Introduction.

[S1} Hebrews 11

- **We're going to jump in right where we left off last week.** You can go ahead and [open your bibles](#) to Hebrews chapter 11.
- **This sermon assumes a knowledge of Genesis and Exodus.**
— The bible is a big book! There's lots to learn. Connect with someone to dig deeper into the story of God. (Don't slip through.)
- **Last week we talked about WHY** Hebrews 11 lists such a diverse group of. Rather than a list of inspiring success stories, we see is a bunch of different kinds of people running toward one common hope. The promise of God.
- **So working with the running metaphor, we worked on 3 practical tips for how to run in faith:**

[S2} Run Flowchart.

HEB 11 » Run » Look up | Don't weight | God's Promise is a City.

- **ONE: Look up like Jesus.**
TWO: Don't weight for things to get easier.
THREE: God's Promise is a City.
— I left this one out because we didn't have time. Also, I did plan for today's sermon to centre entirely around this point.
- **We'll explore that point while zooming in on Moses'** mention here in Hebrews 11. We already covered some of his story mentioned in Hebrews 11 last week. This week we'll focused on what we missed.
- **This wan't easy, so I've mapped this out in a flowchart** to give you an idea of where this is going today. (No express line.)

- So let's jump into God's word, first, in ***Hebrews 11:13-16**.
Then **Hebrews 11:23-28**

[S3} Hebrews 11:13-14.

All these people died still believing what God had promised them. They did not receive what was promised, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed it. They agreed that they were foreigners and nomads here on earth. Obviously people who say such things are looking forward to a country they can call their own.

[S4} Hebrews 11:16.

If they had longed for the country they came from, they could have gone back. But they were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

- **NOTICE: "These all died still believing."** All of the people in Hebrews 11:
 - Died in faith before not receive what was promised..
 - BUT saw the God's promise from a distance...
 - Lived on the move toward a better place...
- **And THEN in verse 16...** *"They were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them."*
The people hoped for the thing God was pleased to give them. — They knew it as the promised land/inheritance. God says "perfect, that's what I plan to give... **a Holy City.**"
- **Moving right along to Hebrews 11:23-28**

[S5} Hebrews 11:23-26.

It was by faith that Moses' parents hid him for three months when he was born. They saw that God had given them an unusual child, and they were not afraid to disobey the king's command. It was by faith that Moses, when he grew up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to share the oppression of God's people instead of enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin. He thought it was better to suffer for the sake of Christ than to own the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to his great reward.

So, like all of those mentioned in Hebrews, Moses is looking forward to a better place, better than the royal palace of Pharaoh. He's living on the move toward God's promised Holy

City.

— *That's what we covered last week.*

[S6] Hebrews 11:27-28.

It was by faith that Moses left the land of Egypt, not fearing the king's anger. He kept right on going because he kept his eyes on the one who is invisible. It was by faith that Moses commanded the people of Israel to keep the Passover and to sprinkle blood on the doorposts so that the angel of death would not kill their firstborn sons.

This is the part of Moses mention we didn't go through last week; the passover. Specifically, Moses faith to keep the Passover.

There's 2 curious things about the passover that I hope to touch today.

- 1) The passover is considered faith and not just obedience.
- 2) And a very curious because mention of **blood**.
 - *Confession, in the early days of my faith, I was grossed out by all the blood in the bible. When I understood it; gas on the fire!*

[S7] Moses - Passover Faith

My goal today is...

- 1) **To put the promise of God on display** for us to set our eyes toward as we run.
- 2) **To help us see and admire the cost** God paid to fulfill his promise.
- 3) **To equip us with a practical way of living** in the beauty we find.
 - **Let's pray.**

A background of God's City.

[S8] God's City

When we think of cities, we think of traffic jams, sketchy back alleys with overflowing dumpsters, shady characters, and a disproportionately high number of laundromats and adult paraphernalia stores.

— Especially in Campbell River.

God loves cities...

But God loves cities. He is able to see somethings fullest potential.

- **Jonah 4:11. God calls a wicked city to repentance because he loves it:** (Should not I pity Nineveh, that great city ... more than 120,000 people who don't know right from wrong... and also much cattle?)
— A thriving economy, a cultivation of unity AND diversity, a society of shared living for peace and the prosperity of all.
- **Rev 21. God has built a Holy City for his people.**
— We often talk about going to heaven, but actually the bible teaches he God is bringing a piece of heaven down to us, and it's called the Holy City.
- **The author of Hebrews talks about it in Hebrews 12:22-23a**

[S10] Hebrews 11:22-23a.

You have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to countless thousands of angels in a joyful gathering. You have come to the assembly of God's firstborn children, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God himself, who is the judge over all things...

Last week I mentioned “God’s Promise is a city” is a practical tip for helping us run in faith.

- **Because a city is something.**
— You can run toward it.
— You can (and will) approach and enter it.
- **In 1 Corinthians 9:24-25 we're told that “*in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away (a wreath) but we do it for an eternal prize.*”**
— Not a wreath or a ribbon or a trophy we can possess.

[S11] We don't possess God's city.

- **The city possesses us.**
This is where the bible really challenges our cultural perspective.

Corporate Identity.

The bible speaks to our Corporate Identity. Not business corporate, body corporate. Who we are as a who community.

— The identity we *belong* to.

Not a mutual identity; the things about our identity that we all share with our community.

Our corporate identity is who we are because of our community. The way the people around us shape what we believe about ourselves, what we value, and how we behave

We live in a radically individualistic society, so this isn't easy for us to think about.

One way we can try to wrap our heads around it is to visualize it.

[S11} Community Palette: Arial

Community Pallet Illustration.

From this corporate view of CR I can distill this photo down to a palette of 5 basic colours:

— » Midnight, Clear-Sky, Pale Slate, Deep Sea, Mtn Fog

[S12} Community Palette: CRBC

And I can do the same thing with a photo of an individual part of Campbell River.

— » Brick, Olive, Pale Slate, Granite, Grey

Now, with a simplified version of

— 1) Corporate Campbell River, and

— 2) Part of Campbell River, we could ask the question.

“Which is more important / valuable; the part, or the whole?”

Neither. And both.

An individual part of a city cannot properly define the city, but neither can the city be properly defined without that part.

— Both the part and the whole define the meaning of each other. They're best understood together...

Attitude Drone.

Now imagine with me that instead of seeing colours, I had a drone that could photograph the attitudes of the people in CR.
(Not the skills, interests, values, behaviours, etc.) **The attitudes.**

- **If we could boil down the attitudes of CR** into a pallet of 5 basic attitudes, what would they be?
— Impatient — Friendly — Wild
- **What would the attitude palette of our church be?**
— Nitpicky — Forgiving — Hopeful

100% - There are many individuals here who are not represented by any of these colours (attitudes) at all.
(The photo was made up of millions, and we reduced it to five.)

Maybe you're a red and white tugboat or a green and yellow dandelion. But still, you are framed and influenced by your surrounding community so that your unique colours come out in a certain way because because of the colours around you.

Likewise, you influence the community around you and if you were to leave, it would change the palette of the whole picture!

On an individual level, we take some responsibility for the basic attitude of our church, and our city, our nation, our world, our kind.
— The same is true for skills interest, values, behaviours etc.

Corporate Responsibility.

Okay. So now that we're all on the same page about the reality and value of our corporate identity. We can talk about corporate **RESPONSIBILITY.**

Because our Corporate Identity is made up of who we are as a whole we can see that our individual attitudes and actions can colour our entire community.

[S13} Orange Identity.

To use the Community Palette illustration, let's say we began to orient our attitudes and actions around the colour red, the communities that we

influence over time, would become redder. Over generations, our community would see the world in sepia tone and without knowing anything different.

Who we choose to be has a domino effect where ever we are that lasts indefinitely.

The good can lift the whole body to greatness.
The bad can bring guilt on the whole body.

The colour of the Kingdom of God.

Revelation 21, the bible chapter devoted to describing God's Holy City through the eyes of the Apostle John, says this in verse 22-23

[S14} Revelation 21:22-23.

I saw no temple in the city, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. And the city has no need of sun or moon, for the glory of God illuminates the city, and the Lamb is its light....

- We run toward a city whose corporate identity is shaped by God almighty. A place to belong where we are forever lifted up by the glory of God.
- Imagine that! — Literally.

[S15} Imagine that exercise.

This morning I dropped a piece of paper into the pockets behind every pew to help you imagine that.

Take one out and fold it into three parts. Like shown on the screen. At the top of the left panel write Campbell River. At the top of the Middle right CRBC. At the top of the right panel write My family/friends.

And under each header, **describe some way you think Jesus would change the corporate identity of that thing.**

Look at the screen for an example from Maggie and I.

Back to Moses...

While you do that, I'm going to swing back over to our flowchart and see how we've come along.

- **We have seen how God's promise is a city** in Hebrews 11:13-16 and Hebrews 12:22-24.
- **We've put the promise of God on display** by imagining what it would be like to live in a city where Jesus influences the corporate identity.
- **Before we got started on any of that we looked** at what Hebrews 11:27-28 has to say about Moses' passover faith.
- **But now we'll go back to Moses** and see how all of this helps us admire the cost Jesus had paid for our entry into his city.
- We will very briefly touch on **how this equips us to live in God's promise**.

Moses' not surprised.

He lived in a time when both Corporate Identity and Corporate responsibility were probably better understood than individual identity and responsibility. — It's safe to say he had a stronger sense of the value of God's Promise than we do.

But not just the value of God's promise. Moses also understood the corporate guilt of humanity better than we do.

So after God had called Moses to lead the Hebrews out of Egypt. And after God had already sent 9 plagues to Pharaoh to compell him to set Israel free.

— **God prepared the 10th plague and told Moses what it was.**

And it probably didn't surprise Moses at all.

Moses knew that from the beginning the sin of people had been weighing down on our corporate identity. Accumulating a huge corporate debt of sin.

[S16} Cain and Abel.

Ever since **Cain the eldest son of Adam and Eve**, killed his brother Abel in innocent blood, the first murder had shaped the world into an unsafe and unloving place.

- **Moses was not surprised that God was calling in the debt.**

Moses' not surprised.

But the problem is that God had promised an inheritance, a better place, a Holy City.

- How would Israel receive that promise if all the heirs were dead?
- — How could they enter God's city with this great big debt to pay?

[S17} I am calling in the debt.

So God told Moses. "I am calling in the debt. I'm sending my debt collector, the angel of death to kill the first born of every household as just vengeance for the sin...

But! I'm also sending payment. My own son. Perfect, sinless, spotless and without blemish. Like a lamb.

If you trust in my promise, and you're willing to accept the debt you owe for sin, cover your doorways in the blood of a lamb as a sign pointing to my little lamb, my son. And my debt collector will see it and know, that **I will pay for your sin with my own body so that you don't have to, and you can enter my promised city.**

So Moses, led Israel to trust in God, that God would make a way for them to escape their debt of sin and inherit the promised Holy City of God, by God sending his payment to receive the punishment **we all** deserve.

That was then. Now we read the words in Hebrews 12:

*. (24) You have come to Jesus, the one who mediates the new covenant promise between God and people, and to the sprinkled blood, **which speaks of forgiveness instead of crying out for vengeance like the blood of Abel.***

- **But Jesus actions are the opposite of Cain's**, instead of killing to get something from his brother Abel, Jesus gave his life to give something to us.

- Jesus pays the corporate debt we all owe AND his attitude and actions of love lift us up to his heavenly place.

We are the promised city.

- **Revelation 21** attempts to describes a inconceivably beautiful city. Whether it's metaphor or not, it is not the structure of God's city that ultimately makes it beautiful as we learn in Hebrews 11:39-40

[S18} Hebrews 11:39-40.

All these people earned a good reputation because of their faith, yet none of them received all that God had promised. For God had something better in mind for us, so that they would not reach perfection without us.

Present Day Implication

[S19} Bible verses...

- **Lu 17:20-22** "Not ...to be observed... the KOG is in your midst."
- **Mat 5:14** "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill..."
1 Th 5:5 "You are all children of the light and children of the day."
- **Joh 2:8** "and you also are living it. For the darkness is disappearing, and the true light is already shining."
- **Ac 26:18** "Open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness [and] receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those sanctified by faith in Me."
 - **Campbell River Baptist Church.** Because of our sin we owed a debt to God we could not afford. But in order to deliver us into his city God has paid it for us with his life.
 - **If we trust in his payment,** we live as the city of God ALIVE inside the city of Campbell River.

Take out your pieces of paper
folded into 3 panels.

[S20} Hebrews 11:39-40.

Would you believe that YOU ARE THE promise of God.

Jesus works in you to make you like him, to make the world we
live in NOW more like the promise of God?

- God calls me to live in CR by
 - Showing more respect for low income earners
 - Celebrating, and serving, others without distrust.
 - Improve my driving. **NOW**
- God calls me to love CRBC by
 - Being generous with my money.
 - Looking out for the needs of other families.
 - To talk about real life issues openly . **NOW**
- God call me to
 - Build trust among my friends
 - Lovingly balance gender roles with my wife.
 - And be more welcoming... **NOW**

That is how I will live in his promise. NOW

WHAT IS HE CALLING YOU TO?