

7.14.2024 Sermon

Faith Through the Muck | Hebrews 11:32

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SPEAKERS

Rev. James Bady

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Well, good morning. Good morning. Good morning, good morning. It's always good to be with you. And it's always an honor to have the opportunity to speak to you a little bit about the word and what we are journeying through, and what we can learn when we look at just God. And when we look at just the Bible, for what it is, versus what we may have been taught throughout our lives, it is what we strive to do with each and every minister that stands here and shares the word with you.

Right, so there are certain pieces and certain ways of thinking about the Bible that we all have been downloaded with. And at times, it's hard to see beyond that. But today, I'm gonna push and see if we can do a little bit of that. And I'm excited on where it's gonna go, because I'm gonna ask for some of you all's input. So that we can see where we're at, as a group, and I'm sensitive and understanding that one of the great things about Cornerstone shameless plug in, for those of you that are online, is that we have diversity in every way possible.

Right? So, meaning, there are some who've never been to church who feel comfortable being in this church building with us. We appreciate that. And what does that mean? That means some of the old traditions and things that we just do, because they look at it and go, Wow, that looks silly. Why don't you do that? And that's a, that's a good challenge. So, I want to uncover this story today.

In Hebrews 11, through that lens, right, so all the ministers have gone through this with center set eyes and talking through, well, what does this mean if I didn't have my traditions? As blinders? What, how would I look at this differently if I did that? So, we're walking through, as I said, and as others have said, through Hebrews 11, and we're at 11:32 right now, but it's all of

these different pieces. And so, let me I'm gonna go ahead and get in here, hold. But before I start, I do want to give a few thank yous, to people who assisted and did all the work for the pancake breakfast last Sunday, being in that hot kitchen, making sure we had great food.

Man, I don't know what y'all put in that sausage, but um, it was good, right? Also, they had the drum circle yesterday, and some people were out and everybody who came to that seem to really enjoy it. Whereas they're not anyone rhythmically challenged at the drum circle, or did that not matter? Didn't matter. Wow. Okay. See? See? Oh, boy, I had a joke there. But I'll take it home and tell it to my mother.

Alright, I look, thank you all for participating and being a family together, right? Because that's how we do it. We do it through eating, we do it through exercises, we do it through more than just Sunday morning. So, thank you for those things. And I want to pray before getting started. That God, we thank you for today. We thank you for your people. We thank you for this opportunity and time to learn the more of you and to do the things that will be pleasing in your sight. So, God, that the words of my mouth and the meditation on my heart be acceptable in thy sight, oh Lord, my strength, and my Redeemer, a man.

So, Hebrews 11:36, I'm sorry, make that 32. And it reads like this, and I'm reading the brain Study Bible version. It's just because there's a nice clean language. That's all. And I give you a study tool. Biblehub.com has over 32 different translations of every scripture in the Bible. And it also does things with Hebrew and Greek and all of that. So, it's a great tool. If you ever wanted to just say oh, what are the other scriptures related to this? Great tool. I put that out there for those of you that are doing your study this year and are looking for various tools.

Alright? So, 11:32 And it says this, And what more shall I say, time will not allow me to tell of Gideon Barak, Samson Jephthah, David Samuel and the prophets. And that's all he says that we're going to put a whole sermon around that. So, the author lays this out as if they are an attorney, that has sufficiently presented their case of saying, I've given you enough information to now believe what I've said, because at some point in time, we're just beating a dead horse, as they say, I have given you all of this information to talk about what faith I have told you about how do we believe that the world turns on its axis through faith?

How do we believe that there is a God through faith? How do we understand the history of those that are important to our faith, such as Abel, such as Abraham, such as Noah, we understand these stories and the importance they have to face? So, what more do I need to present to you now? There are all these normal things in life, right? So, you get into an airplane, you fly, there's a pilot up there, you think you're going to take off, sore and land by fate. You go to your job, work 40 hours a week, get to the end of the week, by month, bi weekly, or at the end of the month, you expect that check by faith.

There are all these different things that we do. So, we get to this point of what more shall I say? I think I presented the case. And so then today, we're talking about one of the characters that he puts in this context, and that is Samson, Samson, of all people, Samson, and let's think about what that can be about. And like I said, I want you all to participate, because I want to make sure that you get something out of it. And I can say we have our broad base of people in the room that have varying different backgrounds around religion.

So, what do you recall or know about Samson? I want you to answer yell it out. Long hair, hair. Delilah. He's a knucklehead. superstrate. Lions jaw Nazirite what else? destroyed the temple of the Philistines. Yep. Anything else? You got? Did a good job. Did a good job. If anything, more? No. So let's jump into this because this is all related to this pathway of faith. Right? And so, the story about Samson is contained in Judges 13 through 16 Is all of these pieces of Samson's life.

And it's kind of this strange collection of chapters. So, in this grouping, let's say of chapters about judges and judges about Samson's life, if there's this mix, and I'll show you what I mean. So, in chapter 13, there is this prophecy about the birth of Samson, right? And then in chapter 16, there is Samson's greatest triumph and death. And then in between chapters 14 and 15. There's kind of this collection of stuff. It's kind of weird. So, it is the weirdness that we are going to explore today. Is that all right?

Alright. So, but let me put the foundations for Samson's stories so that we're all on the same page, and in how Hebrews tries to outline this story, because I think is important to constantly be going from what's the big picture in this specific. So, if I look at Hebrews 11, overall, we call this the hall of faith, the heroes of faith, but it's kind of strange. And I want to propose to you that there's another way of looking at the entirety of Hebrews 11. Right? There's a pressure, if you look at Hebrews 11, as the hall of faith, it puts pressure on you and I to act perfectly, or God would not deliver. And I think the author of Hebrews 11 was showing you these characters and their flaws, to let you clearly know, these people we're not perfect.

So, then what is this? Well, in the faith of people is also the faithfulness of God. And it is the faithfulness, that is paramount. Right, we do certain things in life. Some of them as you'll see, maybe like Samson a little bit knucklehead-ish. But there's a faithfulness and God that carries us through even when we are doing knucklehead things. That is the Ark of Samson's life. Right? So, there's this beginning chapter 13. And chapter 13, is the beginning. It's the prophecy. And it's a prophecy that that's similar in many ways to a number of characters within the Bible, such as Isaac to Abraham and Sarah, right?

Or even Jesus to Joseph and Mary, of, hey, you're going to have the son. It's a promise one. And they're going to have this great pieces in life. And there's all this great excitement, because the child was so wanted, because the conception was so unbelievable, because society now will respond to those individuals very differently, all because of the prophesied son. Right? That's judges 13. And then, as I said, there's chapter 16. But the rest of the life is 14 through the first half of 16. And there's all of these situations, in most of these characters were their voids and describing who they are. Right?

You don't really know who they are. Because they go from the prophesied birth to Samson. And then there's in 13, and then in 14, he's a full-grown man asking for a wife. What? Nothing else is a full-grown man. Mom, Dad, go give me a wife. Okay, all right. So how will how was he as a son? The author didn't think that was important. So, you can have nothing to assume, but it's fairly common. Not the miraculous here. Well, how was he as a judge, they say, Judge for 20 years? Was he wise? Did he command a great army? We don't hear anything about the army.

Well, the judge is supposed to have an army. The judge is supposed to rule in the courtroom. The judge is supposed to be on the throne. They don't say anything about it. What these voids and so now then our chapter 13. All right, he's born. He's doing these things. But he's been he's been prophesied just in case, everyone was to know if he did certain activities, because he was a Nazirite that he will be exceptionally strong. If I don't cut my hair, I will be exceptionally strong. And God, the Spirit of God will always reside with me.

So, we leave 13 and 14, this is like you and I, we live life. I want this this wife and I tell my parents to go get the wife. I don't know about that. I love my parents, but they're not selecting mice. Last for me, but okay. He goes and gets the parents go and get the spouse from another nation, which was another No, no. But okay, this is Samson. He's doing some knuckleheaded things. He is kind of mischievous he puts together this riddle that was designed to betray people and make them give them gifts. But his future wife betrays him tells the riddle, he gets mad, he goes back home to mommy and daddy.

But then he decides, you know, she was cute. So, let me go back. He goes back. He goes to his father in law, and says, I'm about to go into my wife and father in law goes, No, you laugh. To me, that was a divorce, I gave her to someone else. And as a result, being a godly man, he sets everybody's grain on fire. That's really godly people, sets everybody's grain on fire. And this starts the tension between him personally. And the Philistines. There's this back and forth that breaks out because of this. It takes the jawbone of a donkey kills up a bunch of them. So naughty, come in looking for one.

And they are in this chase in one day, because he's like, you know, this guy is pretty strong, you get killed this lion, he did just knock down 30 of us because he wanted to, maybe we, you know, be careful, we don't get them. We move forward to chapter 1516. He, he goes into the city one night, and decides, you know what, I'm gonna leave in the middle of the night, and I'm gonna take the city gates in the post with me. Why? Why? The city gates has to protect the city and all the citizens in it from pillagers, and that will come at night.

Just take those with me and takes them 35 miles away with him to a heel. And nobody's gonna be mad. Nobody. Nobody. And then of course, we all know about the story of Delilah. And people give Delilah, I think a bad name. Because Delilah told him to his face when she first met. Tell me your strength that others may bound you in afflict you? Why would you stay with this woman? And you knew it was true? Because you lied to her the first time. And she did it and showed you she did it. You she tested you a second time. You told her another lie. She did it and showed you that she would do it.

She did it a third time. Just in case you didn't understand the trend. She was honest. You may not have liked why she did it. She was honest. But our friend Samson was in lub LUB. L U B. So be careful. Who is the twilight of your eye? All right. So, these are you wouldn't say, hey, we want to be like that. But the author in Hebrews 11 has said you know I'm showing you all these characters. So, I want you to understand one thing that God do everything is faithful. Everything is faithful. But I don't want you to just go out and do crazy stuff.

But however, can you live to the level of able? Can you live to the level of Abraham? What about No. Or either? Okay, that's too tough. What about Samson? We got to admit he did some dumb stuff. And God will still be faithful. God is still faithful And so Samson is going through this life. And he reaches chapter 16, which was his triumph. But I want to pause here in the middle, because this is where most of us live our life in the midst of chapter 1415, in the first half of 16. And what can we learn from sitting here in our life, in the middle of our life, you know, the promises exciting.

The prophecy is exciting. Everybody's around you celebrating this great thing. That's exciting. I'm going there, which is my promise, that is victorious. That's when none of this matters anymore because you fulfilled everything you needed to do. That's over there. But what happens to all the rest of us that are here? Here, this is a strange place to be, especially when it's not quite clear what there is. So, Samson's father Minoa, tried to help and getting clarity on what is this thing that Samson to do? Because when he was prophesied, the father went to the angel and said, Hold on.

But what is my boy Samson supposed to do? You said he's going to start the liberation of the Israel, the people of God, that's what you said. But what is he doing? You? Can I get a lot of

help here? What actively is Samson doing over there? Because you're going to have this young man who's extremely strong. And he may be mischievous. And that's our God sounds mischievous. Strong, protected by God, doing these silly things. Because the why? Because when you don't know why you are living, you are likely to do dumb stuff. While you're living.

In dumb stuff multiplies. It does. So, you kill the lion. And go back and get the honey. Alright, so silly thing number one. Alright, you're off track a little bit. Alright, so then you burn up, everybody's drained. So, we're all going to be hungry for this season. And everybody's mad at you. Okay, a little further off track. And then you go and take the city gates as if no one's gonna be mad. Okay, little further off. Then you fall in love with somebody that is guaranteed to get you killed. All right. Has anybody been there? Is their video why?

My wife and I tell our kids all the time. We are so happy social media didn't exist when we were little. Because think about the things you did when you were 19 years old. Or you were in college? Or a person you dated? Or maybe a couple of them. Think about some things you've invested in a job you took is exhausting. I was with some young people earlier in the week. And they were telling me about their life and their stresses now. And I had to smile because I remember when I was there and like oh my god. I used to be that and worse. Hallelujah. I survived.

I mean, people see us old folks now dignified. Look at pastor Tracy. Look at Tony. Let them show you their pictures from their 20s you go "oh my gosh." This is the life we live. And I wonder did Samson have to go through these trials and tribulations that he went through? Or is this just God doing what God does and takes the situation you're in? The circumstances you're surrounded with and doing what God does which is to make something beautiful out of it. When we get closer to Samson's purpose, at times we forget the promise in the vow that was taken at his prophecy, it was a Nazareth file a Nazirite, vows supposed to be temporary.

And for men, what it meant is you did not cut your hair while you were in covenant with God under this vow. And the moment you cut your hair was a signal to God that the bow was over. And now I'm about to return to civilian life. Right? This is what God is observing and being faithful to. So, when Samson goes to Delilah in "lub" L-U-B, and has his hair cut, God says, Okay, I will release you from this vow, and go and live. But as Samson goes to the rest of his trials, leading to his triumph, the signal of the vow returns, which is his hair. And when the signal is fully back, God's power fully returns.

And then he carries out the last act of his life. What did we learn from that? Absolutely, the God is faithful, we break signals with God, God doesn't break them with us. We do things in life, that then God, I don't want to put this together for my child. So, for example, killing the lion with your hands, you can learn that with God, you don't need much. You don't. God doesn't

require a lot of resources to get you where he needs you to go. Well, going up against 30, or 1000, doesn't really matter if the odds are stacked against you.

God needs you somewhere, you will get that place you will get to that place doesn't matter that the odds are against you. You will be victorious. And then what about these gates carried 35 miles on your bed for no reason? I defy you to read Judges. And well the gates meant well, this was just silliness. But imagine the strength and the endurance that you would have to have that you may not even recognize is in you. That once you put it to work for you and your God is amazing. So, look at our own lives. What is the Nazareth vow that you have with God?

And have you left it? For some of it? We are readers. So, we'll say I'mma read my Bible every day. And you've watched some great things. And it was not the church telling you that or a minister telling you it was like no, in my spirit. This is what I'm going to do. It was your Nazirite vow. And you were doing that. But you got here into the chapter 14 and 15 of your life. Or it was I will pray or either I will walk in meditate. Great. That was your signal to God. It's personal, because even chapter 13 the angel tells the Mother, "Hey, this is just for you all."

This isn't go tell your neighbors and everybody around you and if they don't do it like you do it kill them. No, this is for you. In your life. Some of you know you have a vow. You know what you're supposed to do. You know you are powerful. You know you've done some great things. But unfortunately, you've gotten caught in this malaise of life. And since you were powerful and in malaise just doing stuff Just don't stop. My challenge to you is back to your vial. You know what it is? Your trial is common. Your preparation is now it is beautiful.

Oh, in with a song. What is the name of that song? Nothing. Not. I think it's you played it at your birthday. Nothing I hold on to I turned everything over to you God trusting you make something beautiful out of it. So, no matter where you are in your life, thank you, Johnny and allow God does what God does. And that is take the situation that you're in. help you learn. But as you embrace your Nazareth bow, God faithful to see you through a man.