

And Others (Un-named, but not unknown)

Heb 11:32-40

One of our greatest desires is to be respected and well thought of. We desire respect from our spouses and children. We desire respect from our co-workers and employers. We desire respect...period!

This may be one reason that we find our fulfillment in our careers, in our positions, and our place in society. We have the innate desire to make a "name for ourselves."

But what if our name is never mentioned? What if we don't make the history books? What if the only legacy we leave behind is that of faith in our great God, passed down to our children and grandchildren? Would we be pleased?

In Hebrews chapter 11, we know this passage as the "Hall of Faith." We read the accounts of Noah, Abraham, and Sara; we see how God used their lives in a special way. But one thing I notice starting in verse 35 and 36 is, "and others..."

You see, their names are not listed among the great "heroes of the faith" that we see earlier in the chapter; but what God did through them was no less miraculous!

Let's look at who the "others" were:

1) **They were Weak men with Big faith! (vs 33, 34)**

The truth about Hebrews 11 is that it tells the stories of weak men, that serve a Big God! God is the hero of our story! When we read the stories of men and women in the Bible and think that they were something special, I think we are missing the real Hero of the story. You understand that without our gracious Heavenly Father, we can do absolutely nothing in and of ourselves. Each breath we draw is a gift from God! The mental aptitude to get up and tie our shoes comes from Him! So when God does something with our lives, it is because He has given us the ability and blessing to do His work! It is God who works in and through us to accomplish His task!

2) **The World was not worthy... but their God was! (vs 35-38)**

Their sacrifices were great and so were the miracles that God did through them! The neat thing about witnessing God do miracles in our lives is that in the direst of circumstances, He does that which we cannot! The world will try to explain it. We will try to understand it. Some may claim to know the secret. But can I tell you, His ways are not our ways, and His thoughts are not our thoughts!

God wants to receive all the glory! He is worthy of our praise! He is worthy of our worship! He is worthy of our sacrifice! Is it not our "reasonable service" that we offer ourselves upon the alter of sacrifice for our loving, caring Father?!

We all want God to use our lives, but what price are we willing to pay for Him to receive the glory?!

3) **Their "approval" came from God, not by men! (vs 39)**

Through faith they obtained a good report. By living a life of faith, even in the midst of great persecution, trials, and martyrdom these "others" obtained a good report! I imagine that as we stand before the judgement seat of Christ, that these that were un-named in Hebrews 11, will receive crowns upon crowns to cast at the feet of Jesus! I imagine that they will hear those words we long to hear, "well done, thou good and faithful servant." And though their names are never mentioned in Hebrews 11, their story lives on in the pages of God's word!

May that be said of us? Would to God that with our lives, we seek His approval, and not that of the world! May God be pleased with our lives, as we willingly and submissively place ourselves into His service, seeking only His approval!

I close with this interesting story from World War I. Cher Ami was a carrier pigeon made famous by carrying the location and message of aid for 194 allied men pinned down behind German enemy lines. They would later be called "The Lost Battalion." Cher Ami was shot through the breast, the eye, and leg. With all hope seeming to be lost, the bird arose and took flight despite her injuries and flew 25 miles to headquarters carrying the message that ultimately saved those men.

Cher Ami may be the only name of the heroic WW1 pigeons we know, but there were two others that went before giving their lives carrying the message that would save the men of the "Lost Battalion." I imagine that to those men, the sacrifice of those "other" pigeons was just as valuable as Cher Ami's flight despite the odds.

The message we carry is far more important, requires far more sacrifice, but has far better rewards!

Will you serve God, though you maybe be un-named, but not unknown?