

Worship August 21 2022 – 11th Sunday after Pentecost
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church – Dade City Florida
Sermon Notes “Faith as Choice”

Memory Verses:

Psalm 50:14-15 “¹⁴Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High, ¹⁵and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.”

How do we live out our faith?

definition of faith: “the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” (Hebr. 11:1)

lessons from Biblical heroes of faith in Hebrews chapter 11

exhortation in chapter 12 to “run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebr. 12:1b-12)

not all choices are easy. ... struggle against sin. ... take seriously discipline of the LORD. ... for our good, to share his holiness.

“What will be the wrath of the Judge over the ungodly? ... What will be the end of those who do not believe the Gospel?” ..., “It seems as though we were forsaken by God on the cross, but precisely then we are loved and cared for most.” --Martin Luther

Writer to Hebrews challenges “Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the LORD.”

Don’t wait for peace, but rather to actively seek it, without compromising the truth . Through Christ’s sacrifice, Christians are already considered “”holy” in God’s sight. (Hebr. 3:1)

Esau’s problematic choice...

choice of faith of call to true repentance. Luther’s interpretation “It is clear how the passage in Hebr. 12:16-17 is to be understood... God, who does not deceive or lie, has offered His mercy to all men

who truly repent; and repentance for sin always finds room before God... But there is another repentance that is ... false...namely, when I repent in such a way that I am not ashamed of having offended God, but am ashamed because I have done harm to myself.”

God sees us as holy through Christ’s sacrifice and disciplines us to struggle against sin.

As gratitude is expressed for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, we are further enjoined to “offer to God acceptable worship with reverence and awe. “

The Son of God’s speaking and presence are the center of worship. When God the Son spoke the Law, His people were terrified. But the sprinkled blood of Jesus speaks better things to us: forgiveness, life and salvation.

“Lord, will those who are saved be few?” was an indication of Jesus’ earlier teaching and issuing a call to repentance. This was also a likely indication that Jesus’ teaching called for more immediate action in faith...

The people hearing Jesus have a choice to make. ... urged to not delay making that decision for their salvation for the time would come when it would be too late. Jesus said: “I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father, but through me.” narrow door means Jesus Himself was the only way to salvation.

entry into God’s kingdom priority #1, before door to life slams shut.

A wholehearted trust is needed.

Barbara Welsh, a Florida resident expressed her faith through a poem entitled: Looking Through the Right Lens

Let's pray;

Lord Jesus, when earthly relations cause me to make You and Your Kingdom anything less than my first priority, strengthen me and lead me back into the way of life everlasting. Help me always to look through the lens of faith in your salvation. Amen.