

## Judges Intro No Turning Back

11/23/08 - The Exchange

- I. No turning back
  - A. Lyrics
    1. I have decided to follow Jesus
    2. Though I may wonder I still will follow
    3. The world behind me, the cross before me
    4. Though none go with me, still I will follow
    5. Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
  - B. It would be nice if it were always like that.
    1. That is what the Lord has for us, but it doesn't always work out that way.
    2. Between ourselves and the Lord, whose fault do you suppose that is?
    3. Why? What keeps us from this? Faith.
      - a) Where there is faith, there is life and relationship with the Lord.
      - b) Where there is no faith, there is no life and there is separation from the Lord.
  - C. This will be demonstrated in a repeating pattern in Judges
    1. (Judges Shuffle) - sin, servitude, supplication, salvation, spiral.
    2. Why is it so obvious in Judges? Covers 350 years of history.
    3. How did they get to where they are? Need to understand the backstory. Going to use Hebrews 11 as a map.
- II. History in a nutshell
  - A. Hebrews 11:1-3 Creation (slide build)
  - B. Genesis 2-3 The Fall (slide build). Don't know how long after creation.
    1. Obedience to not eat was based on faith. Didn't know what death was. Faith = life and relationship.
    2. Disobedience was transfer of faith from God's word to the Serpents. No faith = no life, diminished relationship.
  - C. Hebrews 11:4 Cain & Abel (slide build), Genesis 4. Don't know year. Issue wasn't what was sacrificed but the heart, the faith.
  - D. Hebrews 11:5-6 Enoch (slide build), Genesis 5. Year 987.
  - E. Hebrews 11:7 Noah and flood (slide build), Genesis 7. Year 1656. Why? Genesis 6:5. No faith, no walking with God.
  - F. Tower of Babel (slide build). Genesis 11. Year 1757. People disobeying, not dispersing.
  - G. Hebrews 11:8-19 Abraham (slide build), Genesis 12. Year 1948. Had his own faith ups and downs. Liar, adulterer.
  - H. Hebrews 11:20-22 Isaac to Joseph (slide build), Genesis 21-50. Year 2048. Bunch of yahoos who ripped each other off and sold into slavery, yet God was faithful.
  - I. Hebrews 11:23-29 Moses (slide build), Exodus-Deuteronomy. Year 2429. "God will go before you."
  - J. Numbers 13-14 Something Hebrews skips. (no slide).
    1. Summarize but emphasize circumstances and significance.
    2. "I wouldn't have doubted." Oh really?

3. Later Moses misrepresents God to the people and is denied access to the promised land.
  4. Only two who left Egypt entered the promised land; Joshua and Caleb.
  5. Faith = life and relationship. No faith = no life, diminished relationship
- K. **Hebrews 11:30-31** Enter the land (slide build), **Joshua**. Year 2550
1. God told Abraham the promised land would stretch from the Med. to the Euphrates. Barely got past the Jordan.
  2. When they trusted God they won. When they didn't, they lost.
  3. Told to make landmarks to memorialize the miracles God had done for following generations.
- L. **Judges** (slide build)
1. Opens with "who will go before us?" Ends with "everyone did what was right in their own eyes."
  2. Rationalizing leads to compromise leads to doing your own thing.
  3. But not all were failures.
- M. **Hebrews 11:32-40**. It speaks for itself.
- III. What do we do with this? **Hebrews 12:1-2**
- A. Realize you aren't alone, others have gone before you
  - B. Get rid of the non-essentials
  - C. Get rid of the compromise
  - D. Run with endurance, expecting the trials
  - E. Keep your eye on the finish line, on Jesus
  - F. **Song**
    1. I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back
    2. Though I may wonder I still will follow, no turning back
    3. The world behind me, the cross before me, no turning back
    4. Though none go with me, still I will follow, no turning back
    5. Will you decide now to follow Jesus? No turning back