

Three Men Who Demonstrated Great Faith  
(Hebrews 11:20-22)

Introduction:

1. Hebrews 11 is "the great faith chapter" in the Bible.
2. It was written:
  - a. to Christians whose faith was being tested
  - b. to encourage them to remain faithful to the Lord.
3. In this chapter we read about a number of men and women from the Old Testament who demonstrated their faith in various ways.
4. Their examples are a tremendous source of encouragement.
5. In our lesson we are examining "three men who demonstrated great faith."
6. The first point we need to make is that . . .

Discussion:

- I. THESE THREE MEN HAD CERTAIN THINGS IN COMMON
  - A. They were all descendants of Abraham who receives a great amount of attention in this chapter (vs.8-10, vs.17-19).
    1. Isaac was Abraham's son.
    2. Jacob was Abraham's grandson.
    3. Joseph was Abraham's great-grandson.
  - B. They all lived long lives.
    1. Isaac lived to be 180 years old (Genesis 35:28).
    2. Jacob lived 147 years (Genesis 47:28).
    3. Joseph was 110 years old when he died (Genesis 50:26).
  - C. At the end of their lives,:
    1. they all looked to the future with optimism
    2. they all were concerned about future generations.
  - D. Let us turn our attention to . . .
- II. HOW THESE THREE MEN DEMONSTRATED THEIR FAITH AT ADVANCED AGES
  - A. In Genesis 27 we read about the occasion when "*Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.*"
    1. Isaac's condition is described in vs.1a.
    2. (vs.27-29) Isaac blessed Jacob with the blessing he intended to give Esau.
    3. (vs.38-40) Isaac also blessed Esau.
    4. Isaac blessed Jacob again in Genesis 28:1-4.
  - B. In Genesis 48 we read about the occasion when Jacob "*blessed both the sons of Joseph.*"
    1. Jacob's condition is described in vs.1-2, 10a.
    2. Jacob blessed Joseph's sons (vs.14-16, 20).
  - C. In Genesis 50 we read about the occasion when Joseph "*made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones.*"
    1. Joseph's condition is described in vs.22.
    2. Joseph expressed his final wishes in vs.24-26.

Conclusion:

1. Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph provide encouragement for all Christians, especially aging Christians.
2. Even at advanced ages, these three men demonstrated their faith.
3. In doing so,:
  - a. they looked to the future with optimism
  - b. were concerned about future generations.
4. Let us:
  - a. adopt the prayer recorded in Psalm 71:9
  - b. fulfill the responsibility revealed in Psalm 92:12-15
  - c. practice the instructions given in Titus 2:1-5.