

Sunday August 8, 2010

‘HIDE – N – SEEK’
Hebrews 11:1-3 8-16, Luke 12:32-40

Preached by Jess Kacalski

We all have played hide –n – seek in our life. Sure it was a game when we were younger, but today we are no longer children age wise. We are adults and some times we still play the game as adults. The difference today may be who are playing hide n seek the game with.

In the scripture that Alva read in the book of Hebrews we learn the definition of faith. HEBREWS11:1 says “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” The American Heritage dictionary defines Faith as 1. Confident belief in the truth, value, or trustworthiness of a person, idea, or thing. It went on to say this Faith, christianity The theological virtue defined as secure belief in God and a trusting acceptance of God’s will. The study bible I am using says this. Faith means believing in and obeying God, which requires, relying on what we can not see – God’s promises, provisions and concerns for us. An inner attitude alone does not define faith, though. For faith to be present, action is required. Faith proves itself by obedience to the Lord. The writer of Hebrews expressed faith in two directions: 1. Faith toward future things that we hope for and 2. Faith toward invisible things not seen. When we are certain God is in control of these areas and we live like God is in control, that’s faith. There are two sides of faith. 1. Assurance – freedom from doubt and being self-confident. And expectation – eager anticipation.

Both of these assurance and expectation could be seen in the lives of Cain and Abel. Enoch, Noah, and Abraham. They all had strong convictions about unseen present realities. They also had strong assurance that God’s promise would be fulfilled – even in

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the face of evidence that seemed to suggest otherwise. An example of that would be Abraham and Sarah.

Ultimately, the way we see God will determine the shape of our faith. If we see a big, faithful, all-powerful God, then our faith will rise to those levels. If on the other hand, we see a smaller God, a distant or less active God, then faith will plateau at those levels.

In Luke we read the story about worry and watchfulness. Here it says “Do not worry.” Then it says “sell your possessions and give the money to the poor”. One of my first thoughts was what if some of the rich people in this world like Bill Gates and the others were to give most of their belongs to the poor what would happen. I know that they all have foundations which give money to different groups, but that is only a small portion of their income. But what God wants from us is to make sure that our possessions do not control us. Some believe that we all have belongings that are given to us from God. But God gives us the responsibility to manage these possessions in ways that will honor God and accomplish God’s will.

The scripture says Do not be afraid. God will provide for you, and for others. Why do we fear? Animals (including humans) are born with only two fears, fear of loud noises and fear of falling. All the other fears are learned. Fear of failure or success? Learned from someone. Fear of the outdoors, fear of the dark? Learned from someone else. Fear of terrorists, fear of accidents? Learned from someone else. Fear of being poor, fear of being judged? Learned from someone else. We are born with none of these fears and we surely don’t get them from God whose perfect love casts out fear.

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Even in the midst of mimetic crises, Jesus recognizes that, even in spite of our misunderstanding, God is developing something inside us, God has included them in the mystery of salvation. We are the little flock. Wealth is not a consideration, nor is status a barometer. It is our willingness to travel this difficult road with Jesus. Jesus invites us into the fathers love and care. We are invited to wander with God.

It may appear that all is fine and good in an ideal world but it is impossible to do this in the world today. Many of us have families, obligations, and commitments. Even the disciples thought this way and Jesus had to remind them that nothing is impossible with God. It is our lack of faith, our inability or unwillingness to trust God that is our only hindrance. If we have what we desire, then what we have achieved, and if our desire has been imitated, then what we have achieved or acquired has come at the expense of another. .This can always be taken away from us because of some one who is jealous or greedy. .It can be tangible or intangible but it can be taken from us. Our desires are prompted by two sources, the world, which is us, and God. If what we desire is acquirable or corruptible, we should not be surprised when it is taken from us or it diminishes in power. If, on the other hand, we desire our Father’s will and reign, we will find it is possible to live without fear, to live in love and charity, to live as a sojourning people.

It is impossible to live in a way that allows one to survive apart from the false securities of civilization. It is possible to live within, without being enslaved to the

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economic system, Jesus did. It begins not with the exterior skills but with the development of interior skills, the de-tangling of our-selves from our culture. Wilderness

survival skills are worthless if our minds are not freed from the world. Poverty is not freedom from the economic powers and principalities, if we still desire what others have.

The scripture also says be ready, be alert be dressed for action. A person who is a professional tracker has to be ready to leave on a moment's notice to track adults and children that may have gotten lost in the wilderness. Time is always of the essence, there is a plane ticket ready, and a police escort to get this person to the airport quickly. So this person has ready what is called a “Go Bag”. This bag is packed with everything he would need to be called away immediately. We as Christians are also required to have a “Go Bag” of sorts, which will keep us prepared for infinite possibilities for the future. Jesus recommends a way of living in expectation that frees us from the need to acquire and hoard for tomorrow. He asks us to be free of the prisons that our fears create. What do we keep in our Go Bag? How prepared are we to enter the Father's service? It has been suggested that the contents of our Go-Bag are spiritual, interior skill, developed through prayer and practiced submission to God, so that we can, when we are called upon to act call on our habits of living to carry us along. We have to develop our Go-Bag as a way of living in the present, with hopeful expectation.

So when we play hide n seek in our lives let us play the game as children, but as adults let us remember we may be asked to serve and we must be ready with our go bag. And let us always remember to have the faith in God in whatever we do. Amen.