



Better Kingdom: Hebrews 11v23-38

What is your attitude to risks and uncertainty?

People can get so afraid or wary of being disappointed that they stop daring to hope. But lives of faith are set free to dare to hope and to seek God's kingdom first of all, because the overriding reality (and future) is guaranteed.

1) God's Better Kingdom (11v23-27)

Moses compares disgrace, aimed at him because he belongs to Christ, with the literal treasures of Egypt and says that belonging to Christ and his Kingdom is a greater wealth (v24-26). His attention is fixed on God and the reward of knowing him (v26-27). He knows who he belongs to and who he treasures (v24-25), and so he does not fundamentally fear the King, his adoptive grandfather (v27). Any risk of losing his God would be far worse than another risk.

2) God's Power and Providence (11v28-35)

The people in this part of chapter 11 are often facing very tough circumstances and, although we know how things worked out for them, they didn't know ahead of time. They lived by faith and so saw God's power, providence and sustaining. They were "all in" and so knew the hand of God on their lives.

Do you notice how different that looks in different individuals' lives in these verses 29-38?

Christ doesn't guarantee our immediate deliverance. He tells us what the overriding reality and reward look like, and "gives us wings" to do costly things for him and his Kingdom now.

God promises us that faith will see his power (e.g., v29-30, v32-35a) and his providence (e.g., v31, v33). God's providence is God's wise, good and purposeful sovereignty over our lives.

The same God we see working in Hebrews 11 is bringing in his Kingdom in and through us. That same new creation power (Ephesians 1v18-20) is at work in us who believe in Jesus. It is resurrection power.

3) God's Sustaining in the Wilderness (11v35-38)

God also promises us (it is not "either-or") his sustaining when we suffer and when we lose things which the world treasures. Some are delivered from particular circumstances (v32-v35a) but others are sustained through the suffering (v35b-38). If you are living by faith in Jesus, and you feel looked down on by the world, God reassures you that the reality is that he is pleased with you and it is the world that is not worthy (v38)!

What might be worrying us to such an extent that it is quenching some joy in Christ and holding us back from desiring and seeking Christ's kingdom now as our overriding treasure?

