

FOCUS FOR THE UNFORESEEABLE  
“Live for Christ One Day at a Time”

FOCUS

Heb. 11:20-22

Heb. 11:20 **By faith Isaac blessed** Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.

21 **By faith Jacob**, when he was a dying, **blessed** both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, *leaning* upon the top of his staff.

22 **By faith Joseph**, when he died, **made mention** of the departing of the children of Israel; and **gave commandment concerning his bones**.

Since April 26<sup>th</sup>, we have been considering how to “Focus for the Unforeseeable” which happens to coincide with our theme for 2020 → HIS VISION...OUR FOCUS. We have gleaned the lives of Abel, Enoch, Noah, Sarah, Rahab, and the last few weeks...Abraham.

This morning we will consider an observation regarding the lives of three great men in the Bible: Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. These three men are mention in three verses: Heb. 11:20-22.

As we observe their lives, there is a very important principle for us to learn:

“Live for Christ One Day at a Time”

## I. LIFE IS A COMPILATION = Opportunity

Psa. 90:10 **The days of our years are threescore years and ten**; and if by reason of strength *they be* fourscore years, yet *is* their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

- 70 years x 365 days = 25,550 days
- 40 years x 365 = 14,600 days (43% of 70 years left)
- 50 years x 365 = 18,250 days (29% of 70 years left)
- 60 years x 365 = 21,900 days (14% of 70 years left)
- Consider the longevity of Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph:
- Isaac lived 180 years = 65,700 days.

Gen. 35:28 And the days of Isaac were **an hundred and fourscore years**.

- Jacob lived 147 years = 53,655 days.

Gen. 47:28 And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years: so the whole age of Jacob was **an hundred forty and seven years**.

- Joseph lived 110 years = 40,150 days.

Gen. 50:26 So Joseph died, *being* **an hundred and ten years old**: and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

- In three verses we see the summary of three men who lived a total of 437 years = 159,505 days!
- In three verses we see three days out of 159,505 days. What about the other 159,502 days?
- In three verses we see what was an unexciting summary of three lives.

- In three verses we do not see the mundane monotony of their day by day living.
- The three incidents were important events regarding the unforeseeable.
- This morning we will focus on the 159,502 days of important, but unmentioned principles for living a life pleasing to God.

### A. The Uncertainty of Life

Jas. 4:14 Whereas **ye know not what shall be** on the morrow. For **what is your life?** It is even **a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.**

- Knowing the uncertainty of life, how should we then live?

Ezek. 33:10 Therefore, O thou son of man, speak unto the house of Israel; Thus ye speak, saying, **If our transgressions and our sins be upon us, and we pine away in them, how should we then live?**

## B. The Uniqueness of Life

Psa. 139:14 I will praise thee; for **I am fearfully and wonderfully made:** marvellous *are* thy works; and *that* my soul knoweth right well.

Jer. 1:5 Before **I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb** I sanctified thee, *and* I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

- Each life is an individual plan of the Creator.

Isa. 44:24 Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and **he that formed thee from the womb**, I *am* the LORD that maketh all *things*; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself;

- Each person has a “calling” from the womb to be a servant of the Lord.

Isa. 49:1 Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far; **The LORD hath called me from the womb**; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name. ...

5 And now, saith **the LORD that formed me from the womb to be his servant**, to bring Jacob again to him, Though Israel be not gathered, yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, and my God shall be my strength.



- Each person is to cultivate a daily relationship with the Creator.

Deut. 6:2 That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, **all the days of thy life**; and that thy days may be prolonged.

Deut. 30:20 That thou mayest **love the LORD thy God**, and that thou mayest **obey his voice**, and that thou mayest **cleave unto him**: for **he is thy life**, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

II. LIFE IS COMPLICATION = Opposition

Job 14:1 Man *that is* born of a woman *is* of few days, and full of trouble.

## A. Life has Choices

Mt. 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and **broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction**, and many there be which go in thereat:

14 Because strait *is* the gate, and **narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life**, and few there be that find it.

- Consequences occur in conjunction to choices – broad way = destruction...narrow way = life.
- The greatest choice is either to choose a relationship with the LORD, or make yourself your lord.

Josh. 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, **choose you this day whom ye will serve**; whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: **but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.**

1 Kings 18:21 And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, **How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him:** but if Baal, *then* follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

## B. Life has Corollaries

- Whatever choice we make, the life-lessons will be conducive to it.

Psa. 25:12 What man *is* he that feareth the LORD? **him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose.**

2 Cor. 5:14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that **if one died for all, then were all dead:**

15 And **that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.**

- Anyone who understands the magnitude of God's love will see the corollary of its effect upon a believer's life.

1 Jn. 3:1 **Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God:** therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

- God's love = a believer's godly life!

2 Pet. 3:11 *Seeing then that* all these things shall be dissolved, **what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,**

III. LIFE IS A COMPLETION = Occupying

Luke 19:13 And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, **Occupy till I come.**

**Original Word:** πραγματεύομαι

**Transliteration:** pragmateuomai

**Definition:** to busy oneself

**Usage:** I transact business, trade.

*pragmateúomai* (from *prágma*, "a necessary matter, what is pragmatic")

– **properly, the ancient mercantile term for trading (exchanging) to**

**make gain, i.e. to do business** (barter etc.); *trading*, exchanging

(leveraging) one thing for another to make a legitimate *gain*;

(figuratively) "to bear *much* fruit" (cf. Jn 15:2f), i.e. the opposite of

being *fruitless* because refusing to make trades by "playing it safe."

(*pragmateuomai*) means "turning something over," making a good trade

– i.e. "to good account . . . **to administrate, manage profitably the**

**capital at your disposal"** (C. Spicq, 3, 151). (**1 Cor. 4:2**)

<https://biblehub.com/greek/4231.htm>

- Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph lived lives of faith, facing the unforeseeable during many days of their lives.
- The three days mentioned, at the ends of their lives, were the result of daily discipline that developed the spiritual character which influenced the record of their deaths in Heb. 11.
- We need to discipline ourselves on a daily basis in order to be prepared for the “faith moment” of the unforeseeable in our lives.

### A. The Indisputable Pronouncement

Heb. 9:27 And as **it is appointed unto men once to die**, but after this the judgment:

- If the inevitable is pending, then consider the ramifications!

Deut. 32:29 **O that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end!**

Isa. 41:22 Let them bring *them* forth, and **shew us what shall happen:** let them shew the former things, what they *be*, **that we may consider them**, and **know the latter end of them**; or declare us things for to come.

## B. The Implementation of a Plan

### Daily Life Plan for a Faithful Believer

Psa. 68:19 Blessed *be* the Lord, **who daily loadeth us with benefits**, even the God of our salvation. Selah.

#### 1. Self-sacrificing

Luke 9:23 And he said to *them* all, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and **take up his cross daily, and follow me**.

1 Cor. 15:31 I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, **I die daily**.

## 2. Searching the Scriptures

Acts 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and **searched the scriptures daily**, whether those things were so.

Mt. 6:11 Give us this day our **daily bread**.

Luke 11:3 Give us **day by day our daily bread**.

Prov. 8:33 Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not.

34 Blessed *is* the man that heareth me, **watching daily at my gates**, waiting at the posts of my doors.

## 3. Supplication and Prayer

Psa. 86:3 Be merciful unto me, **O Lord: for I cry unto thee daily**.

Psa. 88:9 Mine eye mourneth by reason of affliction: **LORD, I have called daily upon thee**, I have stretched out my hands unto thee.



Phil. 4:6 Be careful for nothing; **but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.**

7 **And** the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, **shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.**

#### 4. Soulwinning and Witnessing

Acts 5:42 And **daily** in the temple, and in every house, **they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.**

Prov. 11:30 The fruit of the righteous *is* a tree of life; and **he that winneth souls *is* wise.**

## 5. Supporting and Encouraging others

Heb. 3:13 But **exhort one another daily**, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

Jn. 13:35 By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, **if ye have love one to another.**

Jn. 15:8 **Herein is my Father glorified**, that ye **bear much fruit**; so shall ye **be my disciples.**

## Conclusion

Psa. 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me **all the days of my life**: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Prov. 31:12 She will do him good and not evil **all the days of her life**.

2 Cor. 4:16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet **the inward man is renewed day by day**.

17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory;

18 While **we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen**: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.