



Bible Study: Hebrews

Hebrews Part 3: The Story of Mary

In this month's study of Hebrews, Sally reminds us how the great heroes of faith lived their lives in very real times and in challenging circumstances. That they chose faith amidst the difficulties of their lives reminds us that we can choose faith amidst the difficulties of our lives.

Read

Hebrews 11 and 12

Luke 1:26-38

From C.S. Lewis: *"The great thing, if one can, is to stop regarding all the unpleasant things as interruptions of one's 'own,' or 'real' life. The truth is of course that what one calls the interruptions are precisely one's real life – the life God is sending one day by day."*

Reflect

As you read Hebrews chapters 11 and 12, consider how each person mentioned had a *real* life, often including a family, job, health problems, and political upheaval in their villages and towns. These men and women chose to believe God and have faith when He called them. How can you use the inspiration of these heroes to bring you courage to step out in faith in your own *real* life?

Even Jesus had to choose to believe God in His story. Reread Hebrews 12:1-3. If you view your own journey as a race, what can you “lay aside” in order to run more freely? What burdens of sin are holding you back?

How does the story of Mary encourage and challenge you? Are you willing to grow in faith and follow the Lord wherever He calls you?

Pray

Ask the Lord to reveal any burdens of sin or worry that you are carrying. Give those back to Him in prayer! Allow Him to carry those things and move you forward into maturity.

Commit

What sins did you give to the Lord in prayer? Ask someone to hold you accountable to “lay aside every encumbrance.”

As Mary was ready when the angel appeared because she had devoted herself to knowing scripture, what one thing can you commit to in order to more fully know the Lord and His word?

Some Key Verses:

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Hebrews 12:1-3

And Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Luke 1:38