

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sermon by Ray Reynolds

Breaking Away

Text: **Hebrews 11:29-30**

Introduction: There are so many people in this Hall of Fame of Faith that are mentioned by name. But those that are not mentioned by name are certainly not less significant. Every man and woman that has stood up for their Lord and responded to the tasks assigned them with faith and perseverance will be given a great reward. The Israelites may have been weak, but they had enough faith to follow some of these great leaders mentioned in this chapter. Let's take a careful look at two events that they had to endure and see what we can learn from it! Open your Bible to **Hebrews 11:29-30** and read along with me.

Discussion:

I. "What do you do when you run out of road?" (Exodus 14:10-14)

A. Don't Panic

I John 4:18 - There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

II Timothy 1:7 - God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

B. Let God Work

Jeremiah 10:23 - I know, O LORD, that a man's life is not his own; it is not for man to direct his steps.

Proverbs 14:12 - There is a way that seems right to a man. But the end is the way of death.

C. Put On Your Safety Belt

Exodus 14:14 - The Lord will fight for you, and you won't need to lift a finger!"

Romans 8:31 - What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?

D. Enjoy The Ride

Remember you may have been on the wrong road (Matthew 7:13-14)!

Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

II. "What do you do when you run into the wall?" (Joshua 6:1-6)

A. Take Inventory

Psalms 52:1 - The goodness of God endures continually.

Ephesians 1:3 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.

B. Don't Second Guess The Map (Who put this here?)

Deuteronomy 29:2-4 - You have seen all that the LORD did before your eyes in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land-- the great trials which your eyes have seen, the signs, and those great wonders. Yet the LORD has not given you a heart to perceive and eyes to see and ears to hear, to this very day. - Open your eyes! Follow!

James 1:2-3 - My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

C. Keep Your Eyes on the Road

Hebrews 12:1-2 - Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

I Peter 2:21 - For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps

D. Don't Look Back

Luke 9:62 – *No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.*

- Remember that Jesus warned us to think about Lot's wife (17:32).

II Peter 3:11-12 - *Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God.*

Conclusion : Have you run out of road? Have you ran into a brick wall? NEWS FLASH: GOD IS STILL GOD!!! What does **Matthew 17:20** say? All you need is a little faith to believe He is the Son of God a little faith to confess Jesus as your Lord. . . . a little faith to turn your life over to Him and repent of your past a little faith to become His disciple by being baptized for the remission of your sins a little faith to trust Him along the journey of a lifetime. . . . and sometimes just a little faith to receive His forgiveness when you fall or just a little faith when you need are weak. God promises He will never leave you or forsake you! Will you give Him your life now?