



A John and Eileen Sala Prison and Teaching
Ministry

Little Lambs Inc.

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Dear Little Lambs,

Almost every Bible scholar knows that some of the most beloved chapters in the Bible are instantly recognizable by just a mention of their content. Of course, we all know that “Creation” is presented in Genesis 1 and that the “Love” chapter is I Corinthians 13. Our focus today qualifies as the “Faith” chapter, Hebrews 11. The very first verse sets the stage. **“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”** Hebrews 11:1 KJV Upon first reading, this brief description of faith might seem to be a puzzle, especially when followed by such a fascinating role call of some of our greatest faith heroes. That will be our newsletter devotion.

We begin with the icon himself, Abraham. The unknown author of Hebrews gives us the super-abridged version of Abraham’s plight. **“By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac . . .”** Hebrews 11:17 The writer makes it all sound as simple as “One, Two, Buckle My Shoe.” But it was not. Abraham must have agonized over the impossible task before him. For starters, what on earth would he tell Sarah, considering their personal struggles to beget a child. “It’s okay, honey. Our only legitimate child will now be given back as a burnt offering.” Is there a man alive that could have weathered that storm?

And consider Noah, another giant of the faith. The people of Noah’s era were desperately wicked and that broke God’s heart. **“But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.”** Genesis 6:8 So God handpicked Noah and spoke to him. **“Make thee an ark of gopher wood.”** Genesis 6:14 In obedience, Noah did just that. In Williamstown, Kentucky, a man has built a full sized replica of Noah’s ark. Its enormous size helps us to appreciate the mocking and ridicule that Noah must have endured as he hammered and sawed away, year after year *on dry land*. And no doubt, he was the laughingstock as he began loading the animals.

And then there is Rahab. It is no surprise that both Abraham and Noah were first ballot selections to the biblical “Hall of Faith.” But Rahab? It seems like a sacrilege to utter her name in the same breath as Abraham’s. But there she is, listed as a hero(ine) of faith. **“By faith the harlot Rahab perished not when she had received the spies with peace.”** Hebrews 11:31 If we can get past our own urge to throw a stone, we must remember that God is able to save even the chief of sinners. After all, was the sin of Rahab the harlot more egregious than David’s with Bathsheba, or Saul’s as he held the coats at the stoning of Stephen? Rahab *risked her life* to engineer The Great Escape. And her courage not only earned her a spot in Hebrews 11 but it forever grafted her into the family tree of Christ Jesus. Matthew 1:5 And besides, not every branch of a tree is a top branch.

As we close, let’s review Hebrews 11:1. **“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”** So faith is just like chicken gravy! Suppose that you have been invited to dinner at a friend’s house. With everyone seated at the dining table, the smiling hostess comes around the corner from the kitchen with a large bowl of hot chicken gravy. The aroma is scrumptious. That gravy is the essence—the “substance” of something you are hoping for, but something you have not yet seen. Yes, that chicken gravy is the *evidence* that a magnificent roasted chicken is just around the corner.

And so it is with Hebrews 11 faith—the “substance” of something hoped for, but something not yet seen. Like the chicken gravy. Abraham answered God **“Here I am.”** Genesis 22:1 although he could not yet see the ram caught in a thicket. In like manner, Noah continued to build although he could not yet see an olive branch being retrieved by the dove. And risking certain death, Rahab hid the spies and misled the King’s posse, trusting and hoping but not seeing the fullness of God’s plan for the children of Israel. These three and many others **“. . . obtained a good report.”** Hebrews 11:2 They all ran the race with hope, although they could not see the finish line. And isn’t that what faith is all about?

Blessings to all,
Mike Rider, Volunteer



Thank you so much for this amazing study. It has brought the King James Bible into so much more clarity. Also I’m always telling my daughters that they have angels watching over them so the part on angels. I’m also going to send them the information about the star Alpha Centauri blew my mind. The extent, power, majesty of our God’s creation is amazing! He spoke and it was created! Sorry I’m so late getting this back but I relapsed and then was placed in the box for 60 days and was transferred just recently. Please pray for my sobriety, and that God continues to bless me with knowledge, wisdom and understanding of His Word and His will for my life. May God also bless

your ministry from the students to the people who grade these lessons. Mr. Sala, I would love to read your book if you can send me a copy. Again thank you for this study. Sincerely, Patrick

Dear Ms. Sala,

First off, I want to say how I honestly love your bible study. It honestly is the best one I have ever taken. I love how it keeps it simple so you don't feel overwhelmed and yet it is so informative. You can tell it was made with love. Thank you for allowing people like me to take your course!

Second off, I never knew my great grandpa but I guess he was a preacher a long time ago. I have always got a sense of peace and calm since I have started bible studies. However I have had this dream and a passion to bring this feeling to those society has forgotten. Just as a friend of God and now some one I would call a friend. How did you or how do you go about setting up a ministry if you have no formal training? Universal Life church has an agreement anyone can sign and poof you're a church! I know there is so much more to this than that. What you do inspires me and honestly I haven't been inspired in years. I was in the army for 8 years and I protected people. Well now I want to use God's Word as the protection to give to others. I want to spread His word and bring the peace I feel to others. I want to start a ministry also. Could you please give me any kind of info or advice please? Thank you and God bless. PS I have enclosed a SASE to save you money and time.

We frequently receive letters like this, full of enthusiasm of a new believer. We have an excellent article written by David Wilkerson 25 years ago. It is more appropriate today than when it was written. He uses Paul on the Isle of Patmos as an example. Judging from the situation, today Paul would have been a failure: *"he had no congregation, no church building, no money to rent or buy a structure. He had no vehicle to travel in, no house, no decent suit to preach in. he had no ministry agenda, no outreach to the community, no plan to win nations. Leaders today would quickly write him off, saying 'This man has nothing. He's finished. Why was he called to ministry in the first place.'* As far as John knew, his exile on Patmos was his final lot. He probably thought, *"I may be stranded here for life. But I'm not going to lose the fire of God. Even if it's only me here, I'm going to worship the Lord. I may have no congregation, no fellowship with brothers or sisters. But I'm going to walk in the Spirit. And I'm going to give myself to seeking the face of God. Now I have time to get to know him as I never have."*

John sought the Lord fully in his isolation. He moved in the Spirit. And he gave himself as a living sacrifice. Beloved, this is the heart of my message: John was now in full-time ministry! I don't mean this in terms of how we normally think of such ministry. It was full-time in the sense that John had God all to himself.

David continues: "I believe God desires every believer to be involved in full-time ministry. Scripture says we're all called as priests unto the Lord. Yet, first, we have to remove from our minds that full-time ministry is a paid position or career. In the Lord's eyes, full-time ministry is ministry unto himself. Simply put, you can be like the apostle John, stranded on an island alone, and be involved in full-time ministry. In fact, I consider John one of the most successful ministers in the Bible. Here is how you'll know you're ready to be a full-time minister:

You no longer need human applause. You don't need an assignment, a plan or to be involved in some great work. You don't need an endorsement or credentials. You don't need a congregation or a church building. The only ministry that satisfies your soul is your prayer and worship to the Lord. You'd rather be alone with Jesus, feeding him with your praises, than to be admired as a great minister. You know that all ministry to others flows out of ministry to him. So you've given yourself completely to a single thing: 'MY one calling on this earth is to minister unto the Lord.' then you'll be ready for what God sees as full-time ministry.

I believe what's needed most in the church today are men and women who'll impose on themselves a Patmos experience. Christians today make time to watch TV, shop, or surf the Internet, but few ever come up to God's throne. Yet the Lord promises, 'If you come up hither, I'll reveal my mercy and grace to you. I'll show you things you've never seen before, because you seek me.

So, where are the full-time ministers who'll shut out every fleshly voice and program of men? Who'll turn away from all self-ambition to be governed and led by the Holy Spirit alone? Who'll let others bypass them according to man's standards, because they've reduced themselves to a single focus of ministry: to live and walk in Spirit."

These words were penned David Wilkerson in 2002 in the Times Square Church Pulpit Series (a newsletter). We keep copies of the original newsletter and send a copy to every inmate who writes us about wanting to enter the ministry. This simple newsletter from David has been my guideline for ministry. We hope and pray that it influences inmates to a deeper relationship with the Lord. We also send out with lessons a tract entitled "A Seven-Point Checklist to See If I've Really repented or Am I just Kidding Myself." This tract is a window into the soul and teaches what true repentance is for the unchurched man or woman in prison. So, beloved, please cover us in prayer and all the lambs who receive our words of love in the scriptures. Thank you again for partnering with us on this mission to be full-time ministers.

Your servant, Eileen Sala