

Spectators or Participators - 02/03/19

TEXT – Heb. 12:1-2

INTRO – “compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses”

The *martures* here are not mere spectators (*theatai*), but testifiers (witnesses) who testify from their own experience ([Heb 11:2](#), [Heb 11:4](#), [Heb 11:5](#), [Heb 11:33](#), [Heb 11:39](#)) to God’s fulfilling his promises as shown in chapter Heb 11.

1 Co 9:24-27 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. 25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. 26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: 27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

I. They Testified (witness) By Their Faith (Hebrews 11)

A. Confidence in God

1. His protection
2. His provision
3. His power
4. His purpose
5. Persecution

B. Their convictions - Holiness

C. Their rejection of the world

D. Their sacrificial effort and zeal

E. Their life of faith

II. They Participated In The Work of God (Hebrews 11)

A. They obeyed the commands of God

B. They followed the will of God

C. They did the work of God

D. They experienced the power of God

III. They challenge the Next Generation

Eze 22:30 And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.

1Sa 17:29 And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause?

1 Sa 16:7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth

not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

Heb 11:23-27 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment. 24 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; 25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; 26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. 27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

Isa 6:8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

CONCL – THE PHARISEES SAT down to watch Jesus die. All that long, bitter day the multitudes who had assembled at Jerusalem for the Passover season crowded about that little hill called “Golgotha” — the place of a skull — to see the spectacle of Jesus Christ, God’s Son, dying between two thieves on a Roman cross. Jews and Gentiles, Pharisees, Sadducees, members of the Sanhedrin, Jewish scribes and doctors of the law, the brutal soldiers, the raging mob, multiplied thousands representing all humanity, watched Jesus die. Roman captains and soldiers, governors, and the mob of common people, mocking, laughing, weeping, awe-smitten, watched Jesus die. Saints and sinners mingled as that greatest event in human history took place. The weeping mother of Jesus, the beloved disciple John, Mary Magdalene, Joseph of Arimathaea, and other wayward disciples watched Jesus die, as did Pilate and the centurion and the soldiers and the mob and the dying thieves. A cross section of all the human race, representing every man, woman, and child who should ever be born, was there to see Jesus die.