

I'm Somebody's Fool!

Big Idea: To make a difference in a proud and independent world that says, "I'm nobody's fool", a believer in Jesus must be different, humbly admitting "I'm Somebody's fool"!

(Text - Hebrews 11:1 - 12:3)

Question: If we really want to influence our world for Jesus, is it more effective to be cool or to be a fool?

1. The Foolishness of Faith (11:1-34)

- Believers in Jesus value the Word more than the world.
- This spiritual viewpoint contrasts with and appears foolish to the material mindset.
- The heroes of faith we honour were often dishonoured by the world in which they lived.

Examples:

- a. Abel - understood he wasn't Able without God
- b. Enoch - discovered that in pleasing God he was not bound to this world
- c. Noah - predicted rain and built a ship in a world that had yet to hear of either
- d. Abraham - packed up his household and moved "God knows where"; built a nursery instead of a nest egg in his old age: finally got his son only to give him up
- e. Jacob - wrestled for his blessing while Esau gave his up for a bowl of soup
- f. Joseph - was looked down on by his brothers as he and his dreams were thrown into the "wishing well"
- g. Moses - gave up his royalty in exchange for slavery
- h. Joshua - had a whole town falling down over his "foolish" military strategies
- i. David - the lowly sheepminder had the giant warrior Goliath laughing his head off

2. The Foolishness of Martyrdom (11:35-39)

- Give emphasis to the parenthesis "(men of whom the world was not worthy)"
- Believers in Jesus value the eternal more than the temporal (11:13-16). Their citizenship is not of this world. Their homeland is not where they were born, but where they were born again.

3. The Foolishness of the Cross (12:1-3)

- Sin ties us to this world (I John 2:15-17)
- But the humiliation of the cross sets us free from the entanglements of sin (1 Cor. 1:18)
- Christ's humiliation was His supreme test of obedience (Phil. 2:5-8).
- Our identification with Him on the cross is our point of entry into the wisdom and power of God (1 Cor. 1:26-31; 2:12-14).
- The cross, the hinge of history, appeared to be Christ's ultimate defeat and yet it was His ultimate victory. What appeared to be foolishness to the world was the crowning phase of God's infinitely wise master plan (1 Cor. 2:6-8).

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate." (1 Cor. 1:18,19). *The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."* (Psalm 53:1a)

The only hope for this world are those whose lives transcend its foolishness through the wisdom of the cross.

Question: How is God calling you away from the foolishness of this world into His wisdom?