

“Your Goose is Cooked: The Story of Jan Hus”

Hebrews 11:1-17, Genesis 15:1-6

October 22, 2017

- Let me tell you the inspiring story of a man named Goose, and how God used him to shape history. True story!
- His name wasn't Goose in English, but in Czech.
- From Bohemia = Czech Republic
- The story of Jan Hus
 - Dark ages.
 - lost authority of Bible.
 - 3 popes
 - Crusade against Naples
 - indulgences
 - Immorality of the clergy.
 - Worship in Latin – which even many priests didn't understand.
 - Church was a mess!
 - Discovered Wycliffe. (d. 1384)
 - Elevated Scripture above Church.
 - Council of Constance, Germany.
 - Promised safe conduct. (Silly Goose!)
 - No real trial. Didn't get to testify.
 - Books burned.
 - Burned at the stake, July 6. 1415
 - (They also dug up Wycliffe and burned his bones.)
 - “You may roast this goose, but after 100 years God will raise up a swan (eagle? Falcon?) that they will not be able to silence.”
 - October 31, 1517, Martin Luther, 95 Theses.
- What can we learn from the story of a man named Goose? I want to focus on three great spiritual truths.

1. Some things are worthy of self-sacrifice.

Mark 8:34-37 ***Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. 36 What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? 37 Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?”***

■ Hus was given the opportunity to recant.

"God is my witness that I have never taught that of which I have been accused by false witnesses. In the truth of the Gospel which I have written, taught, and preached I will die to-day with gladness."

He chose death over cowardice. Endurance over quitting. The torture of the flames could not compare with the pain of cowardice and compliance.

■ “If you were on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?”

■ How much am I willing to sacrifice for Christ and His mission?

■ Gospel.

■ He laid down His life for you and me. What will I lay down for Him? What will you?

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| - Life? | - Family? |
| - Career? | - Free time? |
| - Disposable Income? | - Comfort? |
| - Convenience? | - Pride? |
| - Feelings? | - Attitudes? |

■ Of course we can die physically for our faith just one time. But remember last Sunday.

Colossians 3:5 (-11) ***Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ... 8 But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ...***

2. God is faithful to His promises/prophecies.

Isaiah 55:10-11 ***As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, 11 so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.***

■ Hus prophesied the Reformation.

Amos 3:7 ***Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets.***

■ Hus prophesied the Reformation, but he did not see it.

■ Moses didn't enter the promised land.

■ David didn't build the Temple.

■ Martin Luther King in Memphis. April 3, 1968

"I've been to the mountain top. And I've looked over. And I've seen the promised land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the promised land."

Jeremiah 29:10-14 ***10 This is what the Lord says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. 11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will***

listen to you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you,” declares the Lord, “and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you,” declares the Lord, “and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile.”

- We love v. 11, but this promise was spoken in one of Israel’s lowest times.

3. There is power in faith.

- Hus believed that the work God did through him would be completed.

Hebrews 11:1, ¹³ *Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. ... ¹³ All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth.*

Genesis 15:6 *Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to Him as righteousness.*

Matthew 13:58 *And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.*

- Your life: Promise, Faith, Sacrifice.
- God has made promises to us. I believe them.
- He invites us to respond in faith. (It’s easy to get discouraged)
- It may well require self-sacrifice.
- But God will use you to change history and impact many lives.
- I can’t speak for you, but if God wants to use me to advance His kingdom, He can cook my goose! How about you?

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