**Faith, Believing the Impossible, and Heavenly Treasure**

It’s lovely to be back with you this morning. Some of you will know I’ve been away on holiday these past two—and a bit—weeks. We went on a cruise from Southampton to Boston, took a train to New York for a few days, and flew home on Tuesday night. It was fabulous, though I’ll admit—exhausting!

Travelling like that always makes me pause and marvel. Isn’t it incredible what’s possible today? Our cruise ship carried 3,500 passengers, plus three swimming pools, a dozen restaurants, and a theatre—yet it stayed afloat. But for me, it’s the plane that truly boggles the mind: a huge hunk of metal, carrying hundreds of people and their luggage, somehow lifting off the ground and crossing the Atlantic.

That, to me, is a picture of faith. The Hebrew word for faith in the Old Testament simply means “to believe” or “to trust.” I don’t fully understand how a plane flies. I’m not sure I could wrap my head around all the science. But like everyone else on that flight from New York to London, I chose to trust that it would get me there.

Faith is rarely blind. It’s grounded in what we already know—our experiences, the testimony of others, the evidence before us. And yet, at some point, we still have to decide: will I believe and act on this, or won’t I? Every time I step on a plane, I make that choice. And with each flight, my confidence grows.

This is the same kind of faith we see in our readings today. Hebrews speaks of the patriarchs, especially Abraham. Even before God’s formal covenant, Abraham knew something of Him—after all, he was descended from Noah. When God called him to leave his home for an unknown land, Abraham stepped out in trust.

In today’s Genesis reading, God promises the impossible: a biological child for Abraham, and not just a child but descendants as numerous as the stars. Abraham and Sarah’s journey wasn’t only physical—from Haran to Canaan—it was deeply spiritual. Each day, Abraham chose whether to believe God’s promise and live accordingly. Over time, he became the father of faith.

We are part of that same story—a story that runs from creation, through Noah, Abraham, Moses, and ultimately to Jesus. And in the New Testament, Jesus offers us a promised land—not a piece of geography, but the Kingdom of God itself.

“Do not be afraid, little flock,” Jesus says, “for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.” Notice the past tense—it has already been given. And Jesus Himself shows us the way.

Faith in God is not baseless. We have the witness of Scripture, the testimony of history, and signs of His work in the world around us. But real faith—heart faith—is not something you can see or prove. It’s a choice that shapes how we live. And when we live by faith, God grows it within us.

Jesus calls us to live as if the Kingdom is already here—to let go of what is temporary, and invest in what is eternal. Our journey through this life is preparation for that Kingdom.

So let’s ask ourselves: if we truly believed that God loves us completely, that His promises are unshakable, and that our eternal destination makes everything else pale in comparison—how would we live today? And is there something temporary we need to release, so that we can take hold of heavenly treasure?

Amen.