

MOSES: HIS FAITH AND CHOICES

C. Stephen David | *Ekklesia Evangelical Fellowship* | September 10, 2023

Hebrews 11:[23] By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. [24] By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, [25] choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. [26] He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. [27] By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. [28] By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them.

Who was Moses?

- Moses was the greatest prophet.
- Moses was the greatest lawgiver (Mosaic Law or Law of Moses).
- Moses was the greatest miracle worker.

This passage summarises who Moses was:

- ❖ **Deuteronomy 34:10–12**, “And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, none like him for all the signs and the wonders that the LORD sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land, and for all the mighty power and all the great deeds of terror that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.” (cf. Num. 12:6-8)

1. FAITH IS FEARLESS

Hebrews 11:[23] By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

This faith is not about Moses but about Moses' parents.

- Seventy persons moved to Egypt because of famine.
- After Joseph died, another Pharaoh became king over Egypt and did not know Joseph.

- The people of Israel increased greatly, multiplied and grew exceedingly strong.
- Pharaoh increased their burden and labor, but the more they were oppressed the more they multiplied.
- Pharaoh ordered Hebrew midwives to kill baby boys at the time of delivery but they feared God and let the male children live.
- Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall cast into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live.” (Exo. 1:22)

Moses was born to a couple from the tribe of Levi, Amram and Jochebed.

- ❖ **Hebrews 11:[23]** By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king’s edict.

Two factors: By faith—they saw the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king’s edict.

- ❖ **Exodus 2:1** Now a man from the house of Levi went and took as his wife a Levite woman. 2 The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months.

John Calvin: The parents of Moses were not induced by his beauty to be touched with pity and save him as men are commonly affected, but there was some sort of mark of excellence to come, engraved on the boy which gave promise of something out of the ordinary for him.”

- ❖ **Acts 7:20,** At this time Moses was born; and he was beautiful in God’s sight.

When Pharaoh was seeking to kill male children, see the sovereign work of God:

- Moses’ mother put him in a basket and placed it among the reeds by the river bank. She seemed to have believed in God’s protection.
 - **A. W. Pink observes,** “Faith and fear are opposites, and yet, strange to say, they are often found dwelling within the same breast; but where one is dominant the other is dormant”

- Pharaoh's daughter came to bathe, saw the child and took pity on him.
- Pharaoh's daughter paid to the mother to nurse the child.
- When Moses grew older, he became Pharaoh's daughter son and she called him "Moses".

Parents' faith: Are you possessive towards your children? Do you live in a state of anxiety? Do you live by faith in God? Are you afraid of the circumstances? Do you know that your children belong to God and not to you?

Warren Wiersbe: Though godly parents cannot pass on their faith as they do family traits, they can certainly create an atmosphere of faith at home and be examples to their children. A home should be the first school of faith for a child.

2. FAITH EMBRACES SUFFERING THAN SINFUL PLEASURES

Hebrews 11:24 By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused [*intentional choice*] to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.

- Faith embraces suffering for people rather than sinful pleasures for self-indulgence.

How did Moses learn about godliness?

- ❖ **Exodus 2:10, When the child grew older (fully weaned), she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son.** She named him Moses, "Because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

Note: Moses' mother might have taught him his identity, about God, about his people (Israelites), and godliness. How parents impact their children!

Hebrews 11:25, By faith Moses chose rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.

Warren Wiersbe: The phrase "pleasures of sin" does not refer only to lust and other gross sins. The phrase describes a way of life that we today would call "successful"—position, prestige, power, wealth, and freedom from problems.

Moses suffered for his people: When Moses saw an Egyptian beating one of his people. He killed him and saved his fellow brother. It became known to Pharaoh and Moses had to flee from Egypt to Midian, losing all the privileges of being Pharaoh's daughter's son.

Question: What might have happened if Moses had not given up his pleasures and comforts of Egypt to suffer with and for God's people?

Note: All great men in history were those who took the burdens of people, suffered for the welfare of people and sought the welfare of people [see even Nehemiah].

- A wasted life lives only for oneself, and seeks only one's comforts, without sacrificing and suffering for the people of God.

Hebrews 11:26, He considered the reproach [disgrace] of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.

Considered (hēgeomai): The way you look at things. THE WAY YOU CONSIDER THINGS PROPELS YOU TO MAKE LIFE'S CHOICES.

Steven Cole: The reproach of Christ is a startling phrase! It probably means, "reproach similar to what Christ endured when He was despised and rejected by the world." —CHRIST GAVE UP HIS GLORIOUS STATUS IN HEAVEN AND CAME ON EARTH TO SUFFER FOR THE SINS OF PEOPLE!

- For about 40 years, Moses had been a prince of Egypt.
- Egypt was the wealthiest and most advanced country of the day.
- **Acts 7:22** And Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was mighty in his words and deeds.

F. B. Meyer describes Moses' place in Egyptian high society this way: "If he rode forth into the streets, it would be in a princely chariot, amid the cries of 'Bow the knee.' If he floated on the Nile, it would be in a golden boat, amid the strains of beautiful women playing music. If he wished for anything at all, the almost illimitable wealth of the treasure of Egypt was within his reach."

The reproach of Christ—taking risks and suffering for God's people.

- He must have had a comfortable lifestyle for himself and his family.

For He was Looking (to fix one's eyes earnestly or attentively upon one single object) to the Reward: Eternal dwelling with God in the heavenly city of God.

- Eternal perspective shows our values, shapes our focus, and shepherds our choices.

Moses was like the men in Matthew 13:44 “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. [45] “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, [46] who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Baron Justinian von Wetz (17th century, one of the wealthiest persons who gave up everything and embraced suffering to serve people) once said: “What is it to me to bear the title ‘well-born,’ when I am born-again to Christ? What is it to me to have the title ‘lord,’ when I desire to be the servant of Christ? What is it to be called, ‘your grace,’ when I have need of God’s grace? All these vanities I will away with and all else I will lay at the feet of my dear Lord Jesus.”

3. FAITH ENDURES BY BEHOLDING THE INVISIBLE

Hebrews 11:27, By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible.

This may not point to the first departure: Exodus 2:14, Then Moses was afraid, and thought, “Surely the thing is known.” [15] When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh and stayed in the land of Midian.

This may point to the second departure, where Moses boldly faced Pharaoh, challenged him, and left Egypt with courage without no fear of the the king.

“for he endured as seeing him who is invisible”

- **Faith sees the invisible:** That is, it believes as if it has seen it; and acts as if it has accomplished it.
- Note: This endurance comes as a result of faith in God. Without faith, there is no endurance.

John Calvin: We hence learn, that the true character of faith is to set God always before our eyes; secondly, that faith beholds higher and more hidden things in God than what our senses can perceive; and thirdly, that a view of God alone is sufficient to strengthen our weakness, so that we may become firmer than rocks to withstand all the assaults of Satan. It hence follows, that the weaker and the less resolute any one is, the less faith he has.

Psalm 16:8, I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

As Dr. Vance Havner said, “Moses chose the imperishable, saw the invisible, and did the impossible.”

4. FAITH TRUSTS IN GOD’S REDEMPTION

Hebrews 11:28, By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them.

- Among the ten plagues that God brought on Egyptians, the final judgment was killing the firstborn of the Egyptians.
- God told His people to kill the unblemished male sheep or goat, apply its blood on the doorpost of their houses, and eat the meat in haste.
- Although this looked absurd, Moses and people obeyed by faith and the Destroyed passed over the houses of Israel by seeing the blood on the doorposts of the houses of Israel.

Insightful thought:

- God destroyed the firstborn of the Egyptians and saved Israel by the sprinkled blood.
- Later, God killed His firstborn son, Christ, and by applying His blood on ourselves, we sinners are saved from eternal condemnation.

Faith:

- Do you believe God is able to save you from sin and its consequences through the blood of Christ?
- Do you believe God is able to preserve your soul till the end amidst all trials and temptations, and bring you safe home?