

Intro: Life is full of decisions, some are simple and benign, others are difficult, complex, and extremely important. Some are made unconsciously and others after long careful thought. Some are made by default, when we put off deciding. The course and quality of our lives is determined by our choices. As Christians, we should be making right decisions based on how God views the choice. The more spiritually mature, the more the decisions will reflect the principles of the word of God. Every decision is an opportunity to glorify God. Those decisions based on the knowledge of God and His will made by faith, do so. Those made based on worldly or selfish values, do not - Gal 5:16.

Moses, one of the most respected figures in Hebrew history, lived most of his life before the law was given. Because he received the law, he is most associated with God's law. In the Jewish mindset, it was the law of Moses, but even he lived by faith. Therefore, he is one of the best arguments for these Jews that were thinking about returning to Judaism against doing so. Here, we see both the positive and negative decisions of faith, both that which is accepted and rejected.

XXXI. Making Decisions of Faith - vs 23-29

A. Faith is Accepting of God's Plan- vs 23

1. The faith of his parents - Amram & Jochebed

a. Population controls put on the Hebrews by Pharaoh - Ex 1:16, 22;

b. Moses was hidden three months by his parents,

i. because they saw he was a beautiful child; - Ex 2:2;

- they were concerned for more than his looks

- and was well pleasing to God; - Ac 7:20

ii. they were not afraid of the king's command.

- they were willing to risk their lives to follow God's way

- one only does this b/c there is a will greater than their own

2. Faith demonstrated - Ex 2:3-4

a. when she could no longer hide him,

i. she took an ark of bulrushes for him,

ii. daubed it with asphalt and pitch,

iii. put the child in it,

iv. and laid it in the reeds by the river's bank.

v. And his sister stood afar off, to know what would be done to him.

b. Faith doesn't always know how God is going to work it out, faith knows that He will - Ex 2:5-7

i. Then the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river.

- when she saw the ark among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it.

- when she had opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby

wept.

ii. she had compassion on him, and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."

iii. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter,

- "Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women,

- that she may nurse the child for you?"

iv. Jochebed nursed Moses and was paid for it - Ex 2:8-9;

- did she plant the seeds in his heart that would later grow into the

idea that he was going to free Israel from Egypt?

- by faith, she let him grow up in the house of the one that wanted

him dead

B. Faith Rejects the World's Prestige - vs 24

1. for 40 years, Moses was a prince in Egypt - Ac 7:22-23
 - a. Educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds. - Lu 24:19
 - i. Words - languages - hieroglyphics, hieratic, and some Canaanite languages
 - ii. Deeds - possibly,
 - military strategies and conquests
 - building
 - b. one of the most cultured and advanced societies of the day
2. when he was forty, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, - Ex 2:11-12
 - a. looked at their burdens.
 - i. he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew,
 - ii. he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.
 - b. refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,
 - i. *arneomai* - to contradict, i.e. disavow, reject, abnegate:--deny, refuse.
 - ii. He seems to have had an idea of God's call on his life - Ac 7:25
 - iii. the seeds planted by his mother coming to maturity
 - c. neither Moses or Israel were ready for their deliverance - Ac 7:26-28

C. Faith Rejects the World's Pleasure - vs 25

1. Sin is pleasurable
 - a. *apolausis* - full enjoyment:--enjoy(-ment).
 - b. But it is also always
 - i. passing - *proskairos* - for the occasion only, temporary:--dur(-eth) for awhile, endure for a time, for a season, temporal.
 - ii. evil
 - c. Why do the wicked prosper
 - i. The wicked who say "Depart from us, For we do not desire the knowledge of Your ways." and "Who is the Almighty, that we should serve Him?" Job 21:7-15
 - Why do the wicked live and become old,
 - mighty in power
 - Their descendants are established with them in their sight,
 - Their houses are safe from fear
 - Their cattle multiply without difficulty
 - their children dance.
 - they rejoice to the sound of music.
 - They spend their days in wealth,
 - ii. Jer 12:1b Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why are those happy who deal so treacherously?
 - iii. One might conclude - Surely I have cleansed my heart in vain, And washed my hands in innocence. - Ps 73:12-13
 - iv. The Answer - Ps 73:18 Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction. Job 21:13
2. Moses, by faith chose to suffer affliction with the people of God
 - a. suffering affliction is hard enough
 - b. to go from luxury and comfort to suffer affliction would be even harder
 - c. to choose to do so would indicate reason or insanity
 - d. The reality is suffering affliction for a lifetime and pleasing God is better than pleasing self and suffering for an eternity

D. Faith Rejects the World's Treasure - vs 26

1. life in Pharaoh's Palace was good

2. esteeming

a. **hegeomai** - to lead, command (with official authority); to deem, consider:-- account, (be) chief, count, esteem, governor, judge, have the rule over, suppose, think.

i. involves careful thought, not a flippant decision

ii. When a conclusion was reached, it was well-founded and certain

a. the reproach of Christ

i. **oneidismos** - contumely:--reproach - remember vs 25

ii. Of Christ

- Moses lived 1500 years before Christ

- Christ is the Greek word for Messiah or anointed one

- this may have more to do with his understanding of his calling to deliver Israel

- whatever it may mean, he chose to suffer for God's sake

iii. We are all called to suffer reproach from the world - Heb 13:13; 1Pe 4:12

b. greater riches - for he looked to the reward. - Heb 10:35;

i. **ploutos** - wealth (as fulness), money, possessions, or abundance, richness, valuable bestowment:--riches.

ii. **Misthapodosia** - requital (good or bad):--recompence of reward.

iii. Moses had an understanding that serving God (the reproach of Christ) with His rewards was far better than having comfort and riches here (than the treasures in Egypt)

E. Faith Rejects the World's Pressure - vs 27

1. the first time Moses left Egypt

a. When Pharaoh heard of this matter, he sought to kill Moses. - Ex 2:15

b. b/c he had killed an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew - Ex 2:11-12

2. The second time he left Egypt

a. another Pharaoh wanted to stop him from taking the children of Israel from them

b. one of the pressures he faced - not fearing the wrath of the king

c. in spite of pressure

i. he forsook Egypt

ii. **kataleipo** - to leave down, behind; to abandon, have remaining:-- forsake, leave, reserve.

d. fear caused many to stumble

i. Abraham getting Sarah to lie for him - Ge 12:12; 20:2

ii. Aaron ni making the golden calf - Ex 32:1-5

iii. 10 of 12 spies - Nu 13:32-33

iv. Gideon's army - Jdg 7:3

v. The disciples on the sea - Mk 4:38-40

vi. Peter with his denial of Christ - Jo 18:17, 25, 27

3. for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.

a. he endured Pharaoh

b. he endured the children of Israel when things didn't go the way they thought it should after the first meeting with Pharaoh - Ex 5:21

c. he endured the children of Israel when he told them of God wanting to renew the covenant - Ex 6:9

d. he endured the children of Israel when the Egyptians pursued them - Ex 14:11-12

F. Faith Accepts God's Provision and His Plan - vs 28

1. the 10th plague

a. death of all the first born - Ex 11:5

b. for protection, the Israelites were to put lamb's blood on the header and the door posts - Ex 12:7, 21

i. he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood,

ii. lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them.

c. a type that Moses and Israel would not understand of a future death that delivers from death and condemnation - that of Christ

2. When we come to Christ

a. we accept God's plan of salvation

b. the world's way

i. good works is better than Christ's death

ii. And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; - Isa 64:6

G. Faith Accepts God's Promise - vs 29

1. When they arrived at the Red Sea, Pharaoh was not far behind with his army

2. initially, the people lost heart - Ex 14:11 Then they said to Moses, "Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness?"

3. Moses encouraged the people,

a. "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, - Ex 14:13

b. the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever.

c. "The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace." - Ex 14:14

4. they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land

a. So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. - Ex 14:22

b. All they had to go on was God's word through Moses, by faith they obeyed

c. whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned.

i. the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. - Ex 14:23

ii. the LORD looked down upon the army of the Egyptians - vs 24

- He took off their chariot wheels - vs 25

- the Egyptians knew that the LORD fights for them and against us

iii. the LORD said to Moses,

- "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen." -vs 26

- Moses did what God said - vs 27

- So the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea., the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them. Not so much as one of them remained.