

“The Faith of Moses” *Hebrews 11:23-27*

INTRO:

The writer of Hebrews provided us a guided tour of the testimonies of those who lived by faith. Does it pay to live a life of relationship with the living God? Does it really pay to invest our lives in a reality that we cannot see? These witnesses show us the answer is yes. We learned that living by faith pleases God and will ultimately bring us into possession of heavenly promises.

In **verses 23-27** we learn about the faith Moses demonstrated. What can we learn from his example? In Moses' example we will learn that Faith affects the direction of our lives.

I. By Faith Moses Was Hidden (v. 23)

II. By Faith Moses Chose (v. 24-26)

III. By Faith Moses Left (v. 27)

I. By Faith Moses Was Hidden (v. 23)

A. Moses' story opens with a glimpse of his parents' faith. On the surface we may not see his parents' action as all that remarkable. What parent would willingly let his or her child be killed? Yet, history is full of accounts of parents who did not love their children.

B. Because Moses' parents were people of faith, they hid Moses and did not let him become a victim of Pharaoh's infanticide. They feared God over Pharaoh. More than that, they instilled their faith in him. Their faith became the foundation for the faith Moses exhibited.

II. By Faith Moses Chose (v. 24-26)

A. Moses's Faith reached maturity in Moses' life and expressed itself in the choices he made. The writer is careful to point out when Moses began making these choices. The text says, ***“By faith Moses, when he became of age.” (v.24)*** The Greek literally says, *“When he became great.”* The Greek word can refer to his becoming *“large in years”* as the NKJV takes it. Or even more interesting, it can refer to his status in life as in, *“when he reached the pinnacle of power, influence, and wealth.”*

1. All things being equal, the choice that Moses made is not an easy one. However, for Moses all things were not equal. He chose this difficult option when he had the most to lose and apparently nothing to gain.

2. People would have looked at what he did and said to themselves, *“This man has a screw loose.”* Nobody who knows what they are doing turns down riches, education, power, and a clear shot at becoming the most powerful man on planet earth, or do they? That is exactly what Moses did, and he did it at the top of his game.

B. What choice did he make? It had a negative aspect and a positive aspect. First, we must look at the negative side.

vs.24-25 *“By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin.”*

The word *“denying”* here would have the flavor of *“renouncing.”* Moses’ choice involved separating himself from the blessing, rights, and privileges as the adopted son of Pharaoh’s daughter. This really wasn’t a separate act from the positive aspect of Moses’ choice.

C. In **verse 25** we find the positive side of Moses’ choice. Instead of holding on to the privileges of Egyptian citizenship, Moses chose, *“to suffer evil things along with the people of God.”* He chose to identify himself with a downtrodden and afflicted people instead of *“enjoy the pleasures of sin for a time.”* There is an important truth found in these verses. To make the positive choice of being identified with the Children of God, which was Moses only desire, required him to at the same time renounce his Egyptian ties. He could not do one without the other. This is also true in the Christian experience. We cannot follow **Ephesians 4:24,**

“put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness,”

without at the same time doing **Ephesians 4:22,**

“put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts.”

We must *“put off”* and *“put on.”*

D. Why would Moses make a choice like this? If we were to evaluate this decision from a business perspective, we would say this is the dumbest choice that Moses could have made. On the asset side of the ledger we have wealth, prestige, and power. On the liability side we have suffering, indignity, and powerlessness. Who in their right mind would make this choice? Ah, but what we see in **verses 24 & 25** is not the whole picture. All we see is the short term results of such a choice. **Verse 26** changes the perspective entirely.

E. He chose based on a long term perspective.

v.26 *“By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.”*

F. Both the suffering and the pleasures of **verse 25** are only for a time. In **verse 26**, we read the rationale for Moses' choice. Moses chose God because he valued the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt. When Moses set up his balance scale the reproach that came with identifying with Christ outweighed the temporal joys and riches of Egypt. How can this be? It is because he was *"looking away"* to the recompense. Moses was spiritually far sighted. He was looking at something other than what we generally look at. The Greek word means *"to look away from all other objects and at a single one"* He was fixed upon the reward. He looked away unto the blessings that God has in store for those who love Him in the life to come. Moses made his choice based on the unseen realities.

III. By Faith Moses left (v. 27)

A. So, by faith Moses was hidden. By faith Moses chose. Finally, by faith, Moses left. **Verse 27** says,

"By faith [Moses] forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible."

B. How did Moses have the strength to do this? He endured as seeing Him who is invisible. Moses knew no fear because he kept the One who is invisible continually before his eyes of his faith. The Apostle Paul did that too. Remember in **2 Corinthians 4:18**, he kept on keeping on because he

"looked not on the things that could be seen, but those that could not be seen because that which was seen was temporal, that which is not seen is eternal."

We started our study with a question. *"What do we learn about faith from Moses?"* We have learned several things.

1. Our faith should have a profound effect upon our daily lives. It should cause us to make choices not based on what feels best, or seems best in the short run, but based on what pleases God.
2. Our faith should make us far sighted. It causes us to *"look away"* from the objects of this present world, to the blessings of the world which is yet to come.
3. Finally, faith causes us leave the blessings of this present world behind and to live with the unseen Christ always before our faces. It makes Christ real to us, far more real than the trappings of the world around us. It should make us live as Paul described in **2 Corinthians 4:18**;

“While we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

Hymn #347 *Be Still My Soul*