

The Faith of Moses

Hebrews 11:23-28

Hebrews 11:23-28 - *“By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king’s command. ²⁴ By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, ²⁶ esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. ²⁷ By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible. ²⁸ By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them.”*

Background Notes

In our study of Hebrews 11 we’ve learned that the kind of faith that pleases God is

- faith that believes that God exists, and
- faith that believes what God has said and revealed, and
- faith that acts on what God has revealed!

That’s the kind of faith that is needed for salvation. God has revealed that there’s only one way of salvation – it’s through Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who died on the cross for our sins. In reference to Christ, Acts 4:12 says, *“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”* So God has told us the way of salvation. Do you believe what God has said and revealed? And have you acted on it?

A lot of people say that they have faith in God, but they think there are other ways to Heaven. They don’t believe the truth that God has revealed – that Jesus is the only Way to the Father. “Faith” that believes there are other ways to Heaven will not save anyone. It is not biblical faith, and it does not please God.

When you act on what God has said and revealed, and you have based your life on that revelation, you are saved by faith. Then you will walk by faith. Your walk of faith will follow what God has revealed to be right, and you will avoid what God has revealed to be wrong. Moses is an outstanding example of a believer who did **not** do certain things, and who did *not* live in certain ways because he believed what God had said. We should follow Moses’ example.

Verse 23 revealed information about Moses’ parents: *“By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king’s command.”* *“...a beautiful child”* doesn’t mean just natural beauty. It seems that God gave special insight to Moses’ parents, and revealed that Moses was

no ordinary child, and needed special protection. Moses was eventually used by God to deliver the Israelites from their bondage in Egypt.

So - by faith that acted upon what God had revealed - Moses' parents defied Pharaoh's edict to drown all the male babies. Read about their courage in Exodus 2.

There are times when, by faith, we must refuse to obey human authorities in order to obey the higher laws that God has revealed. For example, if ever the government of this country demanded by law that we practice abortion or infanticide or euthanasia, by faith we must refuse to obey. We must believe and act on what God has revealed.

Doctrinal Point

Believers should follow the faith of Moses.

a. Believers should follow the faith of Moses by refusing power and prestige.

Verse 24: *"By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter."*

If Moses had played his political cards right, there's a good possibility that he might have become Pharaoh over all of Egypt. Acts 7:22 says, *"Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was mighty in words and deeds."* Notice: *"...all the wisdom of Egypt" and "mighty in words and deeds"!*

So Moses had studied all the philosophies and wisdom of the Egyptian civilization. The wealth of Egypt was at his disposal. He was a great statesman. According to the ancient Jewish historian, Josephus, Moses was also a great warrior, because he defeated the Ethiopians at Memphis. Talk about power and prestige! Moses had it all. All that Egypt had to offer was available to him - but Moses gave it all up. When he came of age, he refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter.

Moses refused the power and prestige of the greatest kingdom on earth at that time. Why? The answer is in verses 26-27. He esteemed *"the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible."* By faith Moses looked beyond the temporal treasures of Egypt to the eternal reward of Heaven, because he believed and acted on what God had revealed.

The treasures of Egypt are "here today and gone tomorrow." By faith, Moses forsook Egypt - not only when he ran away to Midian and not only at the time of the Exodus - but by faith he forsook all the glories and gods of Egypt when he refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He did not fear the repercussions of Pharaoh's wrath because his eyes were on the one true God, the invisible and eternal King.

Are you willing to refuse the power and prestige and success that this world has to offer for the sake of Christ? God may choose to give you success and prestige in this world to fulfill His sovereign purposes, but we are not to seek power and prestige from the world. We are to *“seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness.”* Would we be willing to refuse worldly success and *“seek first His righteousness”* - for the sake of Christ?

Recently I read an article about a young Christian woman who could have easily been a contender in the Miss America pageant, but she refused to submit to the pressure of being politically correct and compromise biblical standards. She refused the world’s power and prestige for the sake of Christ.

b. Believers should follow the faith of Moses by choosing pain over pleasure.

Verse 25: *“...choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin.”*

Notice - ***the faith that pleases God involves a choice.*** By faith Moses ***chose*** to suffer affliction with the people of God rather than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin.

Moses was willing to endure the same scorn, derision and reproach that Jesus Christ suffered. People probably mocked him and called him a fool when he chose to give up the pleasures and treasures and glory of Egypt - and identify with the Hebrew slaves! Probably even some of the Israelites thought he was crazy. He certainly was not honored by all the Israelites (Exodus 2 & 5). But by faith Moses made a choice - and he didn’t go back on it.

Are we willing to be called fools because we’ve chosen to identify as Christians? Have we chosen to “suffer affliction” with God’s family rather than enjoy the passing pleasures of sin? Yes, there can be pleasure in sin - make no mistake about that - but that pleasure is only temporary and short lived. And sin has terrible consequences, both in this life and the life to come. Are we willing, by faith, to choose suffering for Christ over the passing pleasures of sin because we believe and act on what God has revealed?

c. Believers should follow the faith of Moses by obeying details without doubts.

Verse 28: *“By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them.”*

When God revealed to Moses that every Israelite household was to kill a lamb and put its blood on the doorpost and lintel of the house in order to escape the judgment of God, Moses did not doubt God. In Exodus 12:12-13 God said, *“I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord. Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.”*

Moses obeyed God's command, with all the details, without doubting what God had revealed. Would we have done that? Or would we have doubted God, and questioned His unusual and unprecedented command? Moses did not question God's ways or doubt what God had revealed. And Moses did not have the benefit of the New Testament! He couldn't know that the Passover was a wonderful *type*, or picture, of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, who shed His blood so that we could escape the judgment of God.

Do we believe all that God has said and commanded? Do we operate our lives based on what He has revealed - or do we question God's ways and doubt or disobey His Word? What about disrespecting the authority structures that God has set up for the Church? What about filing for a divorce that has no biblical basis? More examples could be given.

Moses obeyed the details of what God had revealed - without doubting or questioning God. Believers should follow the faith of Moses.

Practical Application

Where do you want your name written?

When you visit Egypt today, you'll see the ruins of many magnificent pyramids, monuments, and temples. You'll see hieroglyphic inscriptions with the names and accomplishments of Pharaohs, nobles and officials of ancient Egypt. If Moses had chosen to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, there's no doubt that his name would have been written in the records of Egypt for all the world to see - both then and now. But Moses chose to have his name written in Heaven rather than have his name written on stone in Egypt!

Where do you want your name written? Moses is a hero in the Hebrews 11 Hall of Faith because he made a specific choice. He **chose** to have his name written in **God's** record books. Moses did not "drift" into the Hall of Faith – he made a choice!

Where do you want your name written? In Luke 10:20 the Lord Jesus told His followers to "*rejoice because your names are written in heaven.*" This is in reference to salvation. I trust that you have trusted in Jesus and thus your name is already written in Heaven.

God also keeps records of the evidence of our faith. Is your name written in God's record books for faithfulness? The rewards for faithfulness have eternal value!

It's your choice. Where do you want your name written?