

Moses, An Example of Faith

Sunday, november 1st , 1987

Hebrews 11: 24-26

“By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.”

Much of the Old Testament Scriptures is devoted to the study of the lives of people who believed God, people who awaited and looked for the Messiah. There were some people back there that believed God and they waited the coming of the Messiah. Much of the Old Testament is given to the study of their lives and to reveal many things that had happened in their lives.

For example: There was Abraham; much of the Scriptures are given to the life of Abraham who believed God and of whom Christ said; *“He saw My day and he rejoiced to see My day.”*

Much of the Old Testament Scripture is given to the life of Moses, God’s great prophet of whom the Saviour said; *“He wrote of Me.”* The Pharisees said, *“We have Moses”* but He said, *“If you would have believed Moses, you would have believed Me because Moses wrote of Me.”*

Isaac was the miracle child. He was called the, *“Promised seed.”* Is he not a type and picture of our Lord Jesus Christ? He was miraculously born and the promised seed.

David, much of the Scripture is given to the life of David, God’s great king. David was a type of the Son of David. The Messiah was called, *“The Son of David.”*

In my text today, I want you to turn to Hebrews Chapter 11. I want to talk about Moses, an example of faith, Moses, a man of God. Turn to Hebrews 11. Someone said, *“It deserves to be printed into golden letters.”*

Someone else said, *“When I read the 11th Chapter of Hebrews, my heart beats a little faster. When I read the 11th Chapter of Hebrews I am made to rejoice in the faith of these great men and women. When I read the 11th Chapter of Hebrews, I am determined to exercise more faith.”*

Especially, I want you to look at verses 24 through 26. These are the words about Moses. The Scripture says, *“By faith Noah moved with fear, by faith Enoch walked with God and*

by faith Abraham left his father's house" and by faith there were different ones that served the Lord.

Here in Hebrews Chapter 11: 24 through 26, the words are about Moses. Why should this mean so much to me? Well, it seems that the story of Moses fits my situation better than these other verses. I can't do, literally, what some of these other people did.

I'm not called upon to build an altar and offer a sacrifice like Abel. I'm not called upon to build an ark like Noah and gather the animals in. I'm not called upon to leave my father's house like Abraham of old or offer my son on the mountain as a sacrifice for God. I'm not called upon to let a scarlet line out of the window like Rahab.

When I read these verses about Moses and what Moses did because he believed God; I see what every true disciple, not only can do, but must do if he would have the mercies and blessings of Christ.

Look at the text; do you have it in your Bible at Hebrews 11, beginning with verse 24? It says, "*By faith,*" there's the key. It says this about all these men and women. The Scripture says, "*By faith, Enoch walked with God. By faith, Noah being warned of things not seen built an ark. By faith Abraham departed from his father's house and by faith he offered Isaac.*"

"By faith, Moses, (here's another clue) when he was come to years, (he was not a child) and was 40 years old. When he was come to years he refused to be called something, he refused to be called, "The son of Pharaoh's daughter and he chose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season, esteeming the reproach of Christ, even the reproach of Christ to be greater riches than all the treasures of Egypt." He knew something!

My comments from these verses are going to be very simple. I like to make my preaching as simple as I possibly can. You will have no trouble following or understanding the points that I am going to present to you; whether we have grace to imitate Moses, this is another matter. You are going to understand and I am going to understand what is being said.

I am going to show you what Moses refused. He refused three things. He emphatically refused them. Second, I am going to show you what Moses chose. He chose three things, decidedly. Then, I am going to show you in closing why Moses did what he did at such a great cost.

First of all, I am going to show you what Moses refused. The Scripture says, *“By faith, Moses, when he was come to years, he refused.”* Because he believed God, Moses turned his back on three things. These are the three things that most people crave, most people seek, and what most people live for. Most people would sell their souls to obtain these three things, but Moses turned his back and refused them. What were they?

First of all, he gave up rank and greatness. It says, *“Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter.”* Do you know what this is saying?

Evidently, Pharaoh did not have but one daughter. Moses had been brought up in her home for 40 years. She got him when he was just an infant child, a baby, found there where his mother had placed him in the river, in that little grass boat that she had made for him to escape the wrath of the king.

Moses had been brought up in Pharaoh’s daughter’s home. In other words, he was the grandchild of Pharaoh. He was Pharaoh’s daughter’s son. Evidently, she was the only daughter he had and Moses was brought up in that home and educated in their school. Moses, evidently, could have become the king of Egypt if he had stayed there in the most powerful nation in the world.

Yet, here is a man that is 40 years old, standing on the threshold of honor, power, rank and greatness. The Scripture says that he refused it and walked away from the throne of Egypt out into the desert.

Notice the second thing in verse 25; it says, *“He refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to suffer the afflictions of God’s people than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season.”* In other words, he not only gave up rank and greatness but he gave up the pleasures of sin, *“Choosing rather to suffer the afflictions of the people of God, rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin.”*

There were pleasures of every kind at this man’s feet. There was sensual pleasure, social pleasure, fleshly comforts and pleasures. All that could possibly appeal to the lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life was his. All he needed to do was to take it, it was his. He could have been the most powerful man in Egypt, yet he refused it.

You know, my friends; pleasure is what most people seek and live for. It is like the little school boy waiting for vacation time. He goes through nine months of school just waiting for vacation, waiting for the time of pleasure.

A man will work all of his life in a mill or in a plant. He may be somewhere on his job, waiting his whole life for one thing; he is waiting for retirement. He wants to go hunting and fishing; “Oh the pleasure of retirement!”

Here, Moses had the cup of pleasure, any pleasure. He had the pleasures of sin, the pleasures of the world, the pleasures of the flesh, the pleasures of Egypt and the pleasures of all things. He had this cup at his lips at 40 years of age and dashed it to the ground and said, “I refuse it!”

Third: He gave up rank and pleasure and thirdly, he gave up riches. It says here, “*He chose to suffer affliction with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater treasure than the riches of Egypt.*”

Do you know how rich that Egypt was? Egypt was the most powerful nation in the world. How wealthy Egypt was! Do you know what the wealth of Egypt consisted of? Do you know what the riches of Egypt are? Do you know what unlimited wealth can do? Do you have any idea of the power such wealth has in this world?

Why, everyone craves to be rich and to be wealthy and famous, honorable and to have pleasure. Yet, Moses had it all. He had honor, power, rank, pleasures and riches. He had everything he wanted at his fingertips. Yet, he walked away into the desert.

Here is an interesting thing about this; add to all this, that he refused rank, he refused pleasure, he refused riches and he did it deliberately. I want you to listen to me for a moment; he did it deliberately. He was not an impulsive boy and this was not an emotional decision.

If you will read the life of Moses, you will find out that he spent a great deal of time on this particular decision or choice. In fact, one time he tried to deliver Israel on his own, through his own strength. This was not an impulsive, emotional decision; Moses was 40 years old.

I notice people in religion; they will try to get little children down the aisle. They will appeal to little children and they will use all kinds of impulsiveness and emotionalism. They use entertainment, sad stories and will use anything to get people to make a decision.

Often times they will say, “When I count, one, two, three, raise your hands,” or “raise the other hand” or “come down while the iron is hot.” This is the pressure that is put on them.

This was not an impulsive decision for Moses. *“Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. Moses refused the pleasures of sin and Moses refused the riches of Egypt contending that even the reproach of Christ was greater treasure than the riches of Egypt.”*

He did not do it emotionally; he did not do it impulsively; he did not do it as an uninformed man. He was an educated, intelligent, 40 year old man who knew exactly what he was doing.

He went from the wealth of the palace down to the company of a despised people in slavery. It was not an attractive thing. Someone didn’t lie to him and present some attractive, emotional experience that they couldn’t fulfill.

I’ll tell you something else; when Moses did this and refused these things, he was not in trouble in Egypt. He was not in ill-favor like people who get religion when they go to prison. I have had a little experience with people who are in prison.

Everybody who goes to prison gets religious. They accept Jesus or they will write a book. They get religion and will do anything to get out. They get in and out of trouble and they get religion.

Moses was not in trouble. He was in the prime of life. He wasn’t even sick. Everybody that I know that goes to the hospital and they think they are going to die get religion. Moses wasn’t going to die; he was in the prime of life at 40 years old.

He was not impulsive and it wasn’t emotional. It was not because he was in trouble and it wasn’t because he was dying. It was because he loved God and believed God and believed God’s Word. He turned down rank, riches and pleasure. They didn’t leave him; he left them.

I know that a lot of these famous singers and movie stars, when they get too old to make a lot of money, they get religion. That way, riches left them and they did not leave the riches. Moses left that, he left riches.

Here is the second thing: What did Moses choose? I believe that Moses’ choices were as wonderful as his refusals. He refused rank; he refused the pleasures of sin; he refused the riches of Egypt for the good of his soul and he chose three things for the glory of God.

Look at your text in Hebrews Chapter 11: 24 through 26. The Scripture says, *“Choosing rather to suffer affliction.”* He chose affliction and suffering. Because of God and truth, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the way of saving faith is the way of affliction. Did you know that? It is the way of trouble and it is the way of suffering.

That is what the Bible says, *“They that would live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”* Christ said, *“I didn’t come to send peace but a sword. I come to set a man at variance against his mother, against his father and the father in law against his son in law. A man’s enemies shall be those of his own household.”*

Christ said, *“In this world you shall have tribulation. Marvel not my brethren if the world hate you.”* David said, *“It is good for me that I have been afflicted.”* What is Moses choosing? He is choosing the path of the cross and it is not an easy road; he chose affliction. He chose to suffer the afflictions of the people of God.

He knew exactly what it meant when he walked away from Egypt; it meant trouble; it meant suffering; it meant hunger and it meant being thirsty. Leaving meant weariness, it meant pain, it meant loneliness and it meant all of these things when he walked away from the rank, greatness and power of this world. Walking away meant trouble!

Second, in verse 25 it says, *“He chose to be identified with the people of God.”* He chose the afflictions and he chose with them to suffer with the people of God. Moses left the so-called company of the great and wise.

Do you know the circle in which he moved in Egypt, being the grandson of Pharaoh, being one of the leading men in the cabinet and in the kingdom? Don’t forget that he was the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. Do you know the people to with whom he rubbed shoulders? Do you know the people who called him by his first name and he them by their first name?

Did you know Moses knew and associated himself with the great, the mighty, the intellectual and wise? He left them and joined himself to a hated, despised and persecuted people who were dirt-poor. *“He chose to suffer affliction with the people of God.”*

Some people admire believers. They talk about great preachers and great believers and great prophets. Some people feel sorry for preachers, prophets, believers and so forth. Some people will occasionally visit them on a special holiday or service. They don’t want to be identified with them.

Moses chose to be identified with the people of God. He cast his lot with them and became one of them like Ruth of old, which said to Naomi; *“Don’t make me leave you, where you go I go; where you lodge, I lodge. Your God will be my God, your people will be my people. Where you die, I will die and where you are buried, that is where I will be buried.”* That is identification and Moses chose that.

Third: He chose reproach; *“He esteemed the reproach of Christ; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, esteeming the reproach of Christ.”* Can you imagine the reproach that fell upon this man when he did what he did?

You think about whom he was, where he was, with who he was and what he owned and the prospects he had for the future. He left it; he walked off into the desert. He shut the door! He chose affliction and identification with slaves, dirt-poor people, because they were the people of God.

Can you imagine the ridicule? Can you imagine the scorn? Can you imagine the reproach heaped upon this man who turned from Pharaoh’s court to join the slaves of Israel? They said that he was crazy; *“He’s got to be crazy; the man is mad; the man is a fool. The man has everything and he is throwing everything away.”*

They laughed at him and that is hard to take. Many a man had rather face cannon than to be laughed at or to be thought of as a fool. Moses chose affliction; Moses chose to be identified with God’s people. Moses chose the scorn and reproach that came from what he did and what he believed and whom he believed.

Why do you suppose he did all of this? He was no weak man; he was no fool. He was not forced to do it or made to do it. Why do you suppose Moses did it? Why did Moses when he came to years, a mature man, 40 years of age, refuse to be called a son of Pharaoh’s daughter? *“He chose rather to suffer affliction of the people of God, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt.”* Why?

I will tell you why; Moses believed God. You can go back and read verse 24 and it will tell you why. The Scripture says, *“By faith Moses.”* By faith in Christ the effectual sacrifice, Abel offered a blood sacrifice. By faith in the Word of God (the coming Word of God), Noah built an ark which is nothing in the world but a picture of Christ who delivers us from the judgment and wrath of God. By faith in the promise, Abraham left home. He offered his son. He said to that son, *“God will provide Himself a sacrifice.”*

By faith in the Redeemer, Christ Jesus, Moses turned his back on the world’s rank, the world’s pleasure, and the world’s riches and chose deliberately affliction and

identification with the people of God. He was reproached and scorned because he believed God.

Moses saw something that no one else saw. It is just like Noah; *“Noah, being warned of things not seen.”* Moses heard a voice that other people had not heard. Moses knew a Lord that other people did not know. That Lord had set before Him His eternal will and his purpose. God had set before Moses the Kingdom of the Messiah. Do you know what our Lord said? *“Moses wrote of Me. He saw My day.”* Like Abraham, Moses saw the Redeemer and the world and all that the world could offer. It all faded into insignificance.

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Like Abraham, Moses saw the Redeemer and the world and all that the world could offer. It all faded into insignificance. What a soap bubble when you have a home in glory! What a sand castle when you have a building, a *“House not made of hands, eternal in the heavens.”*

What are the praises of men compared to the praise of God? What is the honor of this world compared to the glory of heaven? Moses saw that! Moses believed that God is God over all. Pharaoh was a temporary ruler. *“Moses believed that with God nothing is impossible.”*

Moses believed that earth's riches are temporary and God's riches in Christ are eternal. Moses believed the Kingdom of the Messiah is an eternal Kingdom and other kingdoms will fade away. Moses believed that God would fulfill every promise. Like Abraham of old, he said, *“That he believed that God was able to do all that He promised.”* He believed God!

He didn't walk out into the desert carelessly and flippantly; he had a purpose, he believed God. He walked away from that on which the wrath of God will someday fall. He knew and he believed God. *“Don't weep for Moses; weep for those who were left behind.”*

Moses believed that pleasures of the earth are pleasures that are only for a season and the pleasures of God are eternal. Moses believed that *“the treasures of the earth are*

unworthy to compare with the riches of Christ.” You don’t even utter them in the same breath.

Moses believed that the sufferings of the earth will give way to eternal comfort and glory in Christ Jesus. Moses believed that the despised Israelites were truly the people of God.

I’m going to tell you something else; this thing called “faith,” is not blind-faith. *“He that seeth the Son and believeth on Him hath everlasting life.”* Moses looked beyond the veil into the Holy of Holies and saw the glory of God in the blood of the Mercy Seat.

He saw the world crumbling to dust. He saw the Lord Jesus Christ exalted in that great day. Was he right? Let me ask you, who remembers Pharaoh’s daughter? The name of Moses is on every lip. Who remembers Pharaoh? He doesn’t even have a name.

Where are the cities of Egypt today? Where are the pleasures of Egypt? Where are the treasures of Egypt? They are rusted and decayed. Where are the armies of Egypt? They are laughed at. Where are the glories of Egypt? They are no more.

Where is Moses? Moses is exalted with Christ, seated with Christ, reigning with Christ forever, and ever, and ever. Moses said, “I refuse the world’s rank; I refuse the world’s temporary pleasures and I refuse the riches of this world. I choose affliction and I choose identification with the people of God. I choose Christ Jesus.”

He did it because he believed, he believed, he believed!