**5 – Choice of Moses**

*Hebrews 11:24-27; 1 Peter 4:16*

*Moses reached a fork in the road of life in which he had to choose between ease and difficulty* ***(cf. Matthew 7:13-14)****. This is the ultimate choice we must make in following Christ* ***(cf. Matthew 10:16-22 – sending out the twelve)****. This is the choice that confronted Moses.*

* Moses’ birth and upbringing **(cf. Hebrews 11:23; Acts 7:17-22)**.
  + Moses was privileged in the Egyptian culture.
  + **As Pharaoh’s daughter’s adopted son there were promising indications of wealth and power if he had stayed in the Egyptian culture. He had already seemingly proved himself in some way, and was well on his way to “great” things.**
* Moses was in the position to enjoy many physical pleasures which were sinful **(cf. 11:25).**
  + Sin offers pleasure, but only temporarily **(cf. 1 John 2:15-17)**.
  + Moses saw something more lasting **(cf. 11:26)**.
    - **Reproach of Christ** has a few different meanings that commentators have reached.
      * 1. Christ = anointed – the children of Israel were anointed – chosen by God for a specific purpose, i.e. consecrated.
      * 2. A similar reproach as Christ Himself suffered.
      * ***3. Moses recognized the promise of the seed through the nation of Israel and esteemed suffering for that sake to transcend in importance and value over the pleasures in Egypt.***
        + **(cf. Genesis 12:1-3** – God’s promise to Abram is historical. Moses knew of this, as did the rest of the Israelites.**)**
        + **Moses looked forward to the day of Christ. *“he looked to the reward”* – which is ultimately in Christ (cf. Ephesians 1:3-6).**
        + **(cf. 1 Peter 4:16) – This is something to rejoice in and glorify God in! (Go into detail later.)**
  + He was not recorded as verbally refusing to be called Pharaoh’s daughter’s son.
    - It happened ***“when he became of age.”*** 🡪
    - **(cf. Acts 7:23-29) – This statement in Hebrews refers to the time when He looked out for the well-being of his BRETHREN – THE ISRAELITES (not the Egyptians).**
      * **(cf. Exodus 2:11-15**) – Acts 7 mentioned he figured they would basically appreciate him doing this (**v. 25**).
        + **There is no indication in scripture that Moses knew of God’s plan before He told him (cf. Exodus 3:10-11 – act of being surprised.)**
        + Rather, this showed where his heart was. It was with God’s people! He chose to follow God!
        + We can’t say for sure he knew of God’s plan. He merely knew of God’s general plan to make Israel a great nation, and as such, displayed a faith in that!
        + He saw Him Who was invisible **(v. 27)**.
* It said that Moses did not fear, but the account in Exodus says otherwise. What is that all about? **(cf. Hebrews 11:27; Exodus 2:14)**.
  + It is not that he did not fear AT ALL, but that he did not let that fear debilitate him.
  + His faith overcame his fear (**cf. Hebrews 2:14-15**).
  + **Psalm 23:4 – *“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.”***
    - If there is need for comfort, then there is initial discomfort.
    - ***Fear is a natural occurrence, but how we deal with that fear is what defines us.***
    - **(cf. Hebrews 11:35-40**) – It is certain that the examples of faith experienced fear, but they remained faithful!
      * **Moses overcame fear with faith!**

***Moses is a great example of one who chose the right path. This was ultimately a choice of a difficult life over a life of ease. Our final passage, and its context, speaks volumes about the logic behind such a choice.***

* (**cf. 1 Peter 4:12-16)** – the whole concept of suffering for Christ sake is looking past the temporary to the eternal.
  + The Example of Jesus (v. 1 – therefore points backwards).
  + **(cf. 3:13-20**) – Christ example here speaks to the concept of suffering for the will of God and then being comforted, or rewarded.
    - ***The just result of doing good is reaping good (cf. Galatians 6:7 – “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.”)***
      * Man often breaks this rule, but God does not. Therefore, in actuality, nobody can hurt you if you are doing good. Rather, God will reward you!
    - (**cf. 2:21-23** – Christ didn’t do anything wrong, but was confident in God’s just nature.)
      * He was put to death physically, but God delivered Him from pain and anguish as He was made alive in the spiritual realm.
      * ***“And Jesus said to him, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.’” (Luke 23:43)***
    - ***(cf. 1 Peter 4:6 – The path may be with persecution, or unjust judgment of man, but God will make us live!)***
* ***Moses looked to the reward – This is why he esteemed a difficult life of hardship greater than a life of ease in Egypt.***
* ***“Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” (2 Timothy 3:12)***
* ***“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.” (2 Timothy 4:7-8).***