

## By Faith – Moses

### Hebrews 11

#### Introduction

1. The Hebrew writer continues his discussion on faith with another prominent Old Testament character – Moses.
  2. As the giver of the Law, and the leader of Israel in the Exodus and through the wilderness, Moses was held in high respect among Jews – **Hebrews 3:5-6** – emphasis had to be made that Christ was greater than even he.
  3. The Hebrew writer especially looked to the beginning stages of Moses' appearance in Israelite history to demonstrate how faith acts by the portrayal of the difficult choices Moses made, and devotion to **"Him who is invisible" (v. 27)**.
- I. By Faith Moses' Parents
    - A. Faith Acknowledges Children Belong to God
      - a. Reason for hiding him – **"saw he was a beautiful child"**
        - i. **Exodus 2:1-2** – Amram (father) and Jochebed (mother), parents of Moses, saw he was beautiful. (Hebrews – **"parents...they"** – not just mother.)
        - ii. **Acts 7:20** – in Stephen's address before the Sanhedrin.
          1. **"well pleasing to God"** – *Asteios* (fair, comely, pleasing) *ho* (to) *theos* (God).
          2. Not a Hebraistic superlative as some suggest, but a connection between Moses and God.
        - iii. Hidden by faith because they saw he was beautiful – **Romans 10:17** – God communicated to them in some way.
      - b. Moses was certainly to be a special tool of God to bring about His purposes – **Exodus 3:10**
      - c. However, regardless of the details given them, the parents of Moses knew he was entrusted to them but belonged to God.
        - i. They needed to protect him, and trust in God.
        - ii. They needed to raise him accordingly.
      - d. **Psalm 127:3-5** – Children are a blessing from the Lord.
      - e. But, as they are created in the image of God they are created for serving Him – **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; Proverbs 22:6** – there is a way they should go, and parents are given the responsibility of leading them in that direction.
    - B. Faith Teaches Children About God
      - a. **Hebrews 11:24** – why would Moses make this decision.
        - i. How could he have done it by faith?
        - ii. Not without hearing the word of God!
      - b. **Exodus 2:7-10** – Miriam (Moses' sister) got Jochebed (Moses' mother) as his nurse. He was raised as Pharaoh's daughter's son only after **"THE CHILD GREW."**

- i. “His age when removed to the palace is not stated; but he was old enough to be well instructed in the principles of the true religion; and those early impressions, deepened by the power of divine grace, were never forgotten or effaced.” (Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown Commentary, Exodus 2:6-10)
      - ii. **Not only did they hide him because they saw he was “beautiful to God,” but THEY TAUGHT HIM CONCERNING THE GOD OF THE HEBREWS.**
    - c. **Ephesians 6:4** – Parents, with fathers at the helm, are to raise up children to know the Lord, and serve Him – PRIMARY TASK AS PARENTS.
- II. By Faith Moses
  - A. Faith Refuses Identification with the World
    - a. **Exodus 2:10-11** – became Pharaoh’s daughter’s son, but identified with the Israelites, his brethren, and ultimately joined them.
    - b. **Hebrews 11:25** – He wished to be identified with the Israelites because they were “the people of God.”
      - i. This brought on suffering as indicated.
      - ii. The identification was not a choice of comfort, or pleasure, but of faith.
    - c. Disciples are called Christians – **Acts 11:26** – of Christ, followers of Christ.
      - i. We wear His name, and we wear it proudly.
      - ii. Salvation is only in His name – **Acts 4:12**
    - d. This name was derided by the world – **James 2:7** (blasphemed by the rich); **Acts 24:5** (accusers of Paul link negativity to identification with Jesus – “Nazarenes” was meant as derogatory)
    - e. Faith realizes the blessing of being identified with the Lord, and is therefore not ashamed – **2 Timothy 1:12** (cf. **Romans 1:15-16** – not ashamed of the gospel – i.e. to speak the things of Christ)
  - B. Faith is Not Enchanted by the World’s Offer
    - a. **Hebrews 11:25** – in faith, Moses refused sinful pleasures, and treasures in Egypt.
      - i. He knew they were “passing” – temporary, and fleeting.
      - ii. Like Abraham, Moses looked to the eternal foundations – **Hebrews 11:10**
    - b. The Christian, by faith, realizes that life in the physical realm is temporary – **James 4:14**
    - c. The Christian, by faith, realizes that the world itself, and all it offers is passing away – **1 John 2:17**
    - d. Therefore, the Christian, by faith, realizes there is nothing this world offers that is worthwhile – **1 Timothy 6:17-19** – they are not swayed by riches, but are motivated by the heavenly store.
    - e. They look to their reward that will not degrade like the rest – **1 Peter 1:4**
  - C. Faith Values Suffering for the Lord

- a. Moses was not naïve in his decision to join the people of God, thinking it would be a more comfortable, and less trying position than he had.
  - b. He made his decision by faith, “esteeming” the adversity he would undergo as worthwhile – **Hebrews 11:25-26**
    - i. At the time the Israelites were slaves, and treated poorly – **Exodus 1:11-14; 3:7-8**
    - ii. Even after their deliverance they were subjected to great trial.
  - c. **“reproach of Christ”**
    - i. Moses did not know all the details that we know of Christ, but did he know anything at all?
    - ii. **John 5:46** – he wrote of Christ – includes **Genesis 12:3** (which Moses no doubt was taught by his parents).
    - iii. At the very least, like the other men of faith in this chapter, Moses knew there was a greater spiritual plan in play, esteemed such, even with added suffering, as more valuable than what was offered in Egypt.
  - d. The suffering brought on by living for God is worth it, and honorable as we’re identified with Him, and given the promise of glory – **1 Peter 3:13-15; 4:12-16**
  - e. We must take up our cross and follow Jesus – **Mark 8:34-35**
- D. Faith Fears No Man
- a. Despite the incredibly powerful Pharaoh, and the army he commanded, Moses did not fear turning his back on him – **Hebrews 11:27**
    - i. He knew the power of God was far greater than that of Egypt.
  - b. We will encounter opposition, and our physical lives may be threatened, but those are truly powerless in the grand scheme – **Matthew 10:16-17, 21-23, 27-33** (limited commission) – they would be treated poorly, but were encouraged by Christ with the fact that the only one with power over the eternal facet of man was on their side – Christ.
  - c. We must have the resolve and faith of Peter and John – **Acts 5:27-29**
  - d. **In times of peace we need to be sure we are cultivating a faith that will be able to withstand these tests.**
- E. Faith Understands the Importance of Keeping the Pattern
- a. To avoid being victim to the 10<sup>th</sup> plague, God instituted the first Passover.
  - b. Moses led the Israelites in the observance of this feast – **Hebrews 11:28**
  - c. Details of Passover enumerated in Exodus 12.
    - i. Like Noah, they did ALL God commanded – **Exodus 12:28**
  - d. Would they have been delivered if they did not keep the Passover just as they were instructed? No.
    - i. The detail God gave was not vain.
    - ii. He meant for them to do it exactly as He indicated – it would greatly impact them in their own situation and would have lasting implications throughout His plan.

- e. **2 Timothy 1:13** – when God gives instruction we are to “hold fast” to it – not deviate from it at all.
- f. God is not honored when we depart from His word in pursuit of our own ideas – **Matthew 15:8-9**
- g. If the pattern of the Passover had been altered, the Israelites would have suffered the same fate as the Egyptians.
- h. If any part of the pattern is altered and ignored under the New Testament we will not be pleasing to the Lord, and will be guilty of sin:
  - i. Plan of salvation; work, worship, organization of the church; morality; etc.

### **Conclusion**

1. From being a parent, to acting in ways which forgo comfort and pleasure and undergo immense trial, Moses’ faith teaches us how we should live before God.