

## Hebrews Chapter 11F

As we continue to explore the wonders of saving faith in the book of Hebrews our attention is drawn to the man Moses, that great servant of God. He is one of those Old Testament characters who is literally larger than life!

- By the grace of God through faith, Moses served as the great deliverer of Israel, bringing God's people out of the bondage of slavery into the liberty of true freedom.
- Moses could rightly be called the world's greatest historian. Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit He wrote down the first 2600 years of human history in the first 5 books of the Bible.
- Deuteronomy 34:10, tells us that Moses was the greatest prophet ever to arise among the people of Israel.
- He was God's great Law giver according to John 1:17
- Without doubt Moses was the greatest miracle worker in all of the Old Testament. From the 10 plagues through which the people of God were released from slavery to the miraculous provision of food and water in the wilderness, Moses was the conduit of God's miraculous power.

When you wrap all of that power, all of that accomplishment and all of that influence up in one single man and it seems very strange to me that he would also be called the meekest man on the face of the earth. But that is how he is described.

Numbers 12: 3 **Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth.**

What was it that made Moses so great? Was it his privileged upbringing in the house of Pharaoh? Was it the fact that he received the best education in the world at that time?

- Maybe the secret of his success was his natural abilities, the God given gifts of wisdom, intellect and administration?
- Certainly all of these things played a significant role in making Moses the man that he was BUT the author of Hebrews credits the exploits of Moses to the gift of faith that he received from God.
- Sure He had great influence, he worked great miracles, he was a great leader all because he had great faith in an even greater God.

Dr Steven J Lawson, "*Moses chose the imperishable, he saw the invisible, he did the impossible and he did all of this by faith.*"

The great accomplishments of God's servant Moses are made even more amazing when you consider that by nature, by temperament Moses was hesitant, even tentative but the grace of faith made him supernaturally courageous.

Friends, as it was with Moses so it is in our lives: overcoming great obstacles, leaving a lasting mark on this world for the Kingdom of God is NOT merely dependent upon your

natural abilities, your education or your personality it will be by God's gracious gift of faith that you will glorify God.

As we read through the text and evaluate the life of this great man of God keep your eyes open for these four elements of faith.

1. The Roots of Moses Faith (found in His Godly parents)
2. The Refusal of Moses Faith. (Refusal to be identified with Pharaoh's household)
3. The Reproach of Moses Faith (He chose to suffer with God's people)
4. The Resolve of Moses Faith (Resolutely leaving the world behind)

### 1 The Roots of Moses Faith.

The Roots of Moses Faith are found in his God fearing parents.

Hebrews 11: 23 **By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.**

- There are two important things that I want you to know about the world into which Moses was born.
- First, Moses was born into a believing family, His mother and father are listed here among the great heroes of faith.
- Second, Moses was born into a world that was openly oppressive to the people of God; it was dangerous even deadly for baby boys who were born to Hebrew parents.

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- He instructed the Hebrew midwives to kill every male child as soon as they came out of the womb. (But the midwives feared God and made excuses why they couldn't accomplish the king's wishes. The Hebrew women are too vigorous they give birth before we arrive)
- Finally, the King resorted to infanticide. He made a decree that every son born into a Hebrew family must be cast into the Nile. And his armies enforced the edict of the king.

It was into this dark and deadly environment that Baby Moses arrived.

- By faith his parents did their best to hide him, but you know how effectively newborns tend to make their presence known.

Keeping the boy alive was an act of great courage that arose from a living faith. It was by faith that Moses' parents **were emboldened to stand against the king's edict.**

- By faith they possessed a fear of God that exceeded their fear of man.

- With great courage that arose from great faith they disobeyed the edict of the King.
- There is a pattern here that we see repeated again and again throughout the Bible in the lives of those who live by faith. (important that we learn this)
  - When the edict of the king directly opposes the will of God it is faith that produces the courage that is necessary for civil disobedience.
  - The Apostles of Christ provide a clear example for us to follow.

Acts 5: 28 (When the High Priest said) **"We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, (In the name of Jesus) yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us."** 29 **But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men."**

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- As God would have it the daughter of Pharaoh saw the basket and sent one of her servants to gather it. Looking at the Baby she took pity on him. And then something that Only God could arrange took place:

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- She could have rightfully drowned the baby. Legally she should have drowned the Hebrew boy in the Nile.
- But in the sovereignty of God, Pharaoh's daughter actually paid Moses' mother (Jochebed) to nurse Moses and care for him until the time that he was weaned.

From Hebrews 11:23 we see the roots of Moses Faith were firmly established in the rich faith of his godly parents.

- You better believe that Jochebed made the best of the years that she was able to nurse little Moses.
- In those formative years she told Moses about the God who created all things; Certainly she would have recited again and again, the stories of Abraham, Sarah and the land of promise.
- The story of the true and Living God who separated the people of Israel from all of the nations of the world to be his own.

We see the roots of Moses faith in the life of his parents. BUT you and I both know that parental faith doesn't always translate to the next generation. And in Moses' life, there would be innumerable obstacles that would stand against that faith from blossoming.

- From the time he was weaned (3-4) Moses was handed over to Pharaoh's daughter where he received the best education available to an Egyptian prince.
- He most likely learned mathematics, sciences and engineering as well as philosophy and the pantheistic religions of Egypt.
- He was groomed to lead the greatest nation in the world at that time.
- BUT there came a day when the roots of his faith arose and initiated the refusal of his faith.

## 2 The Refusal of Moses Faith.

Hebrews 11: 24 **By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.**

- In verse 24 we come to the time when Moses expresses a living faith that IS his very own.
- Young people, teenagers I want you to know that there must come a time when you embrace the Lord Jesus for yourself. (*Listen to me*)
- It is not enough to be born into a Christian home, it's not enough to accompany mom and dad to church every Sunday, it's not enough to receive a certificate stating that you have graduated from Sunday School. Those are all good things, But:
- There simply must be a time after having heard the Gospel that you repent of your sin and believe on the Lord Jesus for yourself!
  - You must believe the Word of God, You must be reconciled to God and receive the forgiveness of sins through faith in Jesus' death, burial and resurrection.
  - Until you do you will remain separated from God under the curse of sin.

Back to the text, moving from verse 23 to verse 24 we come to the point when Moses has reached the age of 40. He is highly educated, highly trained and he has obtained a position of great power and influence in the land of Egypt.

- As a matter of fact, he was in line to inherit all of the riches and all of the power of the most advanced civilization of his time.
- It becomes clear that for some time Moses was going through a crisis of identity.
  - There was a battle raging inside of him a battle that pitted his Levi Genes, His Hebrew roots against his Egyptian upbringing.
  - He was a member of the household of the very one who was afflicting His people.
  - The Book of Acts records Moses' turning point.

Acts 7: 22 **And Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was mighty in his words and deeds. 23 "When he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brothers, the children of Israel.**

- After 36 years living in the palace, 36 years of privilege, 36 years of luxury Moses chose to identify himself with the dregs of society, the outcasts, the Hebrew slaves.
- Friends this would have shocked all of Egypt.
- I believe it was Moses' visit with the children of Israel that brought his internal crisis to a head.

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- Seeing first hand the afflictions of the Hebrew people Moses was moved to act. He literally drew a line in the sand from which there was no return.
- It was that grave in the sand where the Son of Pharaoh's daughter was buried and the deliverer of Israel was resurrected.
- By Faith Moses in Vs 24:

Hebrews 11: 24 **refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.**

- This word "refuse" is a strong word, it means to reject, deny, decline, to disown.
- From a worldly standpoint, Moses was sacrificing everything in order to gain nothing. But from a spiritual standpoint he was sacrificing nothing in order to gain everything.
- He renounced a tangible power with visible honor and a prestigious position in order to embrace the life of a slave serving an invisible God who promised an unseen kingdom.

Spurgeon (Prince of Preachers put it this way)

"O Moses, if you must needs join with Israel there is no present reward for you; you have nothing to gain but all to lose; you must do it out of principle, out of love for God, out of all persuasion of the truth, for the tribes have no honor or wealth to bestow, you will receive affliction and that is all. You will be called a fool and people will think they have good reason for doing so."

HOW about YOU? Have the unseen realities of the Kingdom of God and the hope of the life to come displaced the American Dream in your life?

- Are your days consumed with the cares of this world? Remember Jesus' words:

Matthew 6: 31 **Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'** 32 **For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.**

- Moses refused all of the earthly benefits of being the Son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather the REPROACH of Christ.

### 3 The Reproach of Moses Faith

Hebrews 11: 26 **He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.**

- Moses “Considered,” - this was not a quick or emotional decision, the wording that is used describes very careful thought, the weighing pros and cons.
- Placing in a scale all of the visible treasures of Egypt that belonged to Moses and on the other side of the scale the temporary reproach of Christ which precedes the glory of God’s eternal Kingdom.

Living in Pharaoh’s palace, Moses had at his disposal every material possession his heart desired. Archeologists would confirm that he lived a lavish life of wealth beyond imagination.

- The discovery of the tomb of King Tutankhamen who lived about 100 years after the Exodus revealed the priceless treasures that Moses walked away from.
- He made a conscious choice to abandon all that wealth and embrace hardship and persecution along with the people of God.

From a worldly prospective it seems that individuals who receive the revelation of the Kingdom of God go on to make some very foolish decisions. (*Worldly perspective*)

- Abraham left behind the affluence of Ur of the Chaldees for a life of wandering in the rocky hills of Judea. Looking for a city whose architect and builder was God.
- Moses left behind the riches of Egypt to lead a community of complainers through the wilderness into the Promised Land.
  - A more modern example.
- Dr Martin Lloyd Jones, who was one of England’s greatest medical doctors in the early 1900’s, after having become the personal physician to the Royal Family left it all behind to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
  - Choosing a life of suffering is not unusual to our Bible heroes.
- Consider the words of the Apostle Paul who endured great suffering for the Gospel.

2 Corinthians 4:16 **So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. 17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.**

- Having been joined to Christ by faith a believer will endure the suffering of Christ that comes from this rebellious and fallen world.
- But even in the midst of suffering we don’t lose heart because we KNOW that these temporary afflictions are preparing us for an eternal weight of glory.
- The treasures that await us are far greater than anything this world has to offer so we willingly embrace the reproach of Christ in this present life.

1Corinthians 2:9 **But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him."**

- We have seen the deep roots of Moses' faith that was passed on to him by Godly parents and that faith enabled him to reject the privileges and prosperity of this present world choosing rather to suffer the reproach of Christ for a season,
- NOW we see the fearless resolve that faith brought about in his life.

#### 4 The Resolve of Moses Faith

Here we are going to look at Moses final departure from the land of Egypt.

When you read through the book of Exodus you realize that Moses actually left Egypt twice. The first time he was running for his life, fleeing Pharaoh after killing an Egyptian slave master. (Ex. 2:15)

The Second Time that Moses left Egypt there was a different King and a very different Moses.

- This Moses had encountered the Lord in a burning bush, He was commissioned by God, empowered by God, led by God holding the staff that God gave him.
- Moses returned to Egypt with the courage and resolve that comes from faith.
- I believe that Heb. 11:27 speaks of Moses second departure from the land of Egypt In this departure Moses fearlessly forsook Egypt never to return again.

KJV – Hebrews 11:27 **By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.**

- Moses' courage was strengthened; his determination was energized by the revelation of the invisible God.

The great Scottish Reformer John Knox was once asked how he could so boldly confront the Roman Catholic Queen, and Knox replied:

*"One does not fear the Queen of Scotland when he has been on his knees before the King of kings."*

- True and Saving Faith produces in the life of a Believer an unwavering courage that rises up in a time of testing.

This is the courage by which David faced Goliath saying: **"Let no man's heart fail because of (Goliath). Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."**

This is the courage by which the three Hebrew children faced the fiery furnace:

Daniel 3: 16 **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter.**

**17 If this be so, (If you throw us into the furnace) our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king.**

18 But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

- Saving faith enables us to look beyond the pressures, the powers and the pleasures of this present life and endure trials and hardships holding fast to the promises of God.

So I would challenge you as we bring our time together to a close.

- ARE you living your life for the American Dream?
  - 2 cars in the drive way of a single family home.
  - 2.5 children who have everything they need and want.
  - 2 jobs to pay the 2 mortgages you need for that single family home.
  - Let me leave you with these words from the Apostle John:

1 John 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world — the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life — is not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

- Somehow I my generation Evangelicalism has embraced the American Dream and following Jesus is all about having your best life now.
- Tell that to Moses who left behind his cushy life in Egypt to walk in the wilderness for 40 years.
- Tell that to the Apostle Paul who was stoned and left for dead, beaten with rods 3 times, received 39 lashes 5 times spent a day and a night in the open sea...

BRING Kathy and Dwight up front for prayer today. NO TEEN CLASS  
Pray for Terry Foulke / Don Taney

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- Having been joined to Christ by faith a believer will endure the suffering of Christ that comes from this rebellious and fallen world.
- But even in the midst of suffering we don’t lose heart because we KNOW that these temporary afflictions are preparing us for an eternal weight of glory.
- The treasures that await us are far greater than anything this world has to offer so we willingly embrace the reproach of Christ in this present life.

1Corinthians 2:9 **But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him."**

- We have seen the deep roots of Moses' faith that was passed on to him by Godly parents and that faith enabled him to reject the privileges and prosperity of this present world choosing rather to suffer the reproach of Christ for a season,
- NOW we see the fearless resolve that faith brought about in his life.

## 5 The Resolve of Moses Faith

Here we are going to look at Moses final departure from the land of Egypt.

When you read through the book of Exodus you realize that Moses actually left Egypt twice. The first time he was running for his life, fleeing Pharaoh after killing an Egyptian slave master. (Ex. 2:15)

The Second Time that Moses left Egypt there was a different King and a very different Moses.

- This Moses had encountered the Lord in a burning bush, He was commissioned by God, empowered by God, led by God holding the staff that God gave him.
- Moses returned to Egypt with the courage and resolve that comes from faith.
- I believe that Heb. 11:27 speaks of Moses second departure from the land of Egypt

In this departure Moses fearlessly forsook Egypt never to return again.

KJV – Hebrews 11:27 **By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.**

- Moses' courage was strengthened; his determination was energized by the revelation of the invisible God.

The great Scottish Reformer John Knox was once asked how he could so boldly confront the Roman Catholic Queen, and Knox replied:

*"One does not fear the Queen of Scotland when he has been on his knees before the King of kings."*

- True and Saving Faith produces in the life of a Believer an unwavering courage that rises up in a time of testing.

This is the courage by which David faced Goliath saying: **"Let no man's heart fail because of (Goliath). Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."**

This is the courage by which the three Hebrew children faced the fiery furnace:

Daniel 3: 16 **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter.**

**17 If this be so, (If you throw us into the furnace) our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king.**

18 But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

- Saving faith enables us to look beyond the pressures, the powers and the pleasures of this present life and endure trials and hardships holding fast to the promises of God.

So I would challenge you as we bring our time together to a close.

- ARE you living your life for the American Dream?
  - 2 cars in the drive way of a single family home.
  - 2.5 children who have everything they need and want.
  - 2 jobs to pay the 2 mortgages you need for that single family home.
  - Let me leave you with these words from the Apostle John:

1 John 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world — the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life — is not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

- Somehow I my generation Evangelicalism has embraced the American Dream and following Jesus is all about having your best life now.
- Tell that to Moses who left behind his cushy life in Egypt to walk in the wilderness for 40 years.
- Tell that to the Apostle Paul who was stoned and left for dead, beaten with rods 3 times, received 39 lashes 5 times spent a day and a night in the open sea...



