

HEROES OF THE FAITH, THEN AND NOW

Moses

TEXT: Heb. 11:23-29

Introduction: **We come today in our study of heroes of the faith to one of the preeminent figures of the Old Testament: the man Moses.** For forty years he lived as the grandson of the mighty Pharaoh of Egypt. For forty years he lived as a humble, hard working shepherd in the land of Midian. For forty years he was the divinely appointed leader of the people of God as the Lord delivered them from bondage to Egypt and brought them to the border of the promised land. Today he is and remains a man whom God lifts up before us as an example of heroic faith.

Heb. 11:23-29 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.²⁹ By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry *land*, whereas the Egyptians, attempting *to do so*, were drowned.

This passage makes five main points about Moses.

I. MOSES WAS RAISED BY AND IN FAITH.

11:23 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. By faith Amram and Jochebed obeyed the holy law of God rather than the unrighteous law of man. They **refused to allow their child to be killed.**

B. In spite of hardship, Moses parents raised him in the faith.

1. "Train up a child in the way he should go."
2. Do not just "let your child choose."
3. A child's opportunities to choose should increase as the child makes good and godly choices.

C. Practically speaking

1. **Bring them up with a testimony of faith.**
2. Bring them up with **an example of faith.**
3. Bring them up with **the teachings of faith.**
4. Bring them up with **the discipline that comes from faith.**

II. MOSES HAD FAITH IN THE ULTIMATE JUSTICE OF GOD.

11:24-26 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.

A. **Moses** made some tough choices:

1. **Refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter**
2. **Chose to suffer with the people of God**
3. **Chose to give up the passing pleasures of sin**
4. **Chose to suffer affliction and suffering with God's people**
5. **Chose to value the cross over the treasures of Egypt**

B. **Why? He believed in the ultimate justice of God!**

1. He knew that all the seemingly good things of Egypt were going to pass away.
2. He knew that all the good things of God were going to last forever.

C. **Sin's pleasure is always for a season, and the season always passes away.**

1. The Bible tells us of the red wine sparkling in the glass as it swirls smoothly around, but warns us that at the last it bites like a serpent and stings like a viper. If it does not sting you directly, it will get your kids or grand kids.
2. Illicit drugs seems such an easy solution to a pile of problems, but after a while it just multiplies tenfold the size of the pile.
3. Promiscuous sex brings its pleasure for a season, but it never brings satisfaction, only a raging desire for more. In the end it destroys love, relationships, family, reputation, health and all that is worthwhile and precious.
4. Greed drives productivity and can produce the pleasure of an abundance of things, but things cannot soothe the aching heart or comfort the hurting soul.
5. I would not try to tell you there is no pleasure in sin. Sure there is pleasure in sin. The devil makes it so. But he cannot keep it so. At some point in time, every time, the justice of God takes over and sin produces what ultimately it always produces: destruction and death.
6. **R G Lee once said, "The judgments of God sometimes have leaden heels and travel very slowly, but they always have iron hands and they crush completely!"**

D. **God's reward is for eternity and never passes away.**

1. And those rewards are not all reserved for the hereafter.
2. The peace of mind and heart that comes from righteously walking with the Lord is something no loss of things can take away.
3. The friendship and comfort of knowing personally and intimately the One Who has promised to never leave you or forsake you is a reward that cannot be purchased.

4. But my friend, the rewards that shall come in eternity to those who know and love and serve the Lord are far beyond my ability to describe.
5. Moses discovered it is true.
6. Some have also discovered it is true.
7. Others can. God's rewards are better. God's rewards are satisfying. God's rewards are never taken away.
 - a. Young men can purpose in their hearts that they will keep their mind sober and clear and look to the reward God has for them in the years to come.
 - b. Young ladies can determine now that they will keep their body pure and chaste for the husband God will bring to them, and watch for the reward that the Almighty Himself has reserved for them.
 - c. Businessmen and business women can set themselves and their company to deal honestly and with integrity and to not be jealous of the quick success their competitors seemingly enjoy because of lower standards. They can look for the reward the Lord of the Universe has for them down the line.

III. MOSES LEFT THE THINGS OF THE WORLD TO SERVE THE LORD.

11:27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.

A. **He forsook Egypt.** Egypt was his world.

1. **He gave up position.**
2. He gave up **privilege.**
3. He gave up **power.**
4. He gave up **wealth.**
5. He gave up **comfort.**
6. He gave up **luxury.**

Moses gave up what most people spend their whole lives seeking!

B. Egypt is a picture of worldly things for all of us.

1. **Faith calls upon us to cease adoring the things of the world.**
2. Cease longing for the things of the world.
3. Cease clamoring for the things of the world.
4. **What do you love? What do you want? What do you seek?**
5. Mt. 6:31-33 "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

C. **Moses abandoned the things of the world in order to serve God.**

1. Moses was neither monastic nor masochistic.
2. Neither was he just selfish, avoiding the wrath of Pharaoh.
3. He abandoned all the trappings of Egypt to serve the Invisible God.

D. What have you ever given up in order to serve God?

1. Many people don't serve God at all; they just take and never give.
2. Many others serve God within their convenience.
3. **Moses** is an example to us because he **shows us a faith that was willing to give up whatever it took to be able to be and do what God wanted.**
4. And in holding him up as an example to us, God is saying, "I want you to be like that!"

IV. MOSES HAD FAITH IN THE SPRINKLED BLOOD.

11:28 By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them.

- A. Moses saw the necessity of the blood, even for him, the man of God!
- B. The sprinkled blood brought life out of death.
- C. The sprinkled blood effective today is the blood sprinkled in the heavenly Holy of Holies. (Heb. 9:11-12)
- D. The sprinkled blood is necessary for everyone who would be saved.
- E. The sprinkled blood still brings life out of death.

V. MOSES HAD FAITH THAT GOD WOULD SEE HIM THROUGH.

11:29 By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry *land*, whereas the Egyptians, attempting *to do so*, were drowned.

- A. Moses and Israel were trapped by the Red Sea.
- B. They were utterly dependent upon God.
- C. Moses believed God, even though a miracle was required.
- D. God did the miracle of opening the sea and of destroying Israel's enemy.
- E. God's promise to us today: **Phil. 1:6** being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ;

CONCLUSION: Let me conclude with these questions:

1. Parents, are you living in the kind of faith exercised by Moses' parents?

2. Young men, young ladies, will you set your heart to live for the reward and blessing of God and forsake the short lived pleasures of sin the devil freely offers you?
3. Christian man, Christian woman, what do you really love? Do you love the world or God? Are you willing to leave the things of the world in order to serve God?
4. Have you been saved by the sprinkled blood?
5. Are you walking by faith, trusting God to bring to pass the good work He has begun in you?