

The Faith of Moses
Spilman Memorial Baptist Church, Kinston NC
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September 25, 2022

Text: Hebrews 11:23-29

Purpose: Moses was preserved by his parents. He identified with his people's suffering. He was separated from his people for 40 years while God prepared his people and the Pharaoh for their deliverance. Moses obtained salvation for his people through the Passover. He delivered them from the hands of the Egyptians at the Red Sea. We too need to walk by faith, trusting God – the author and finisher of our faith – and the rewarder of those that diligently seek Him.

A police officer pulled a guy over for speeding and had the following exchange:

Officer: May I see your driver's license?
Driver: I don't have one. I had it suspended when I got my 5th DUI.



Officer: May I see the owner's card for this vehicle?
Driver: It's not my car. I stole it.

Officer: The car is stolen?
Driver: That's right. But come to think of it, I think I saw the owner's card in the glove box when I was putting my gun in there.

Officer: There's a gun in the glove box?
Driver: Yes sir. That's where I put it after I shot and killed the woman who owns this car and stuffed her in the trunk.

Officer: There's a BODY in the TRUNK?!?!?
Driver: Yes, sir.

Hearing this, the officer immediately called his captain. The car was quickly surrounded by police, and the captain approached the driver to handle the tense situation:

Captain: Sir, can I see your license?

Driver: Sure. Here it is. (It was valid.)

Captain: Who's car is this?

Driver: It's mine, officer. Here's the registration.

Captain: Could you slowly open your glove box so I can see if there's a gun in it?

Driver: Yes, sir, but there's no gun in it. (Sure enough, there was nothing in the glove box.)

Captain: Would you mind opening your trunk? I was told you said there's a body in it.

Driver: No problem. (The trunk was opened; no body.)

Captain: I don't understand it. The officer who stopped you said you told him you didn't have a license, stole the car, had a gun in the glove box, and that there was a dead body in the trunk.

Driver: Yeah, I'll bet he told you I was speeding, too. ¹

Today we turn our attention to someone that did not misrepresent himself or lie about his current situation. That man is Moses.

When I think about Moses, I think about the actor Charlton Heston in the movie "The Ten Commandments." Standing larger than life, holding the rod that turned into a serpent before Pharaoh. In my mind's eye, I can see him holding that rod over his head as the Red Sea was parted. I can see him holding the Ten Commandments as a testimony of God's love for His people in an attempt to make them a Holy People, set aside for a Holy purpose, through the keeping of a Holy Law.



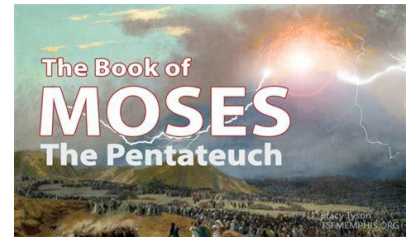
Deuteronomy 34:10-12 says this about Moses.

Since then no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, who did all those miraculous signs and wonders the Lord sent him to do in Egypt – to Pharaoh and to all his officials and to his whole land. For no one has

ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

Next to Abraham, the Jews consider Moses one of the greatest of men.

- Moses was a *prophet* to the people – a *spokesperson* for God.
- He was the *lawgiver* – the one that received direct instruction from the Lord and gave it back to the people.
- He was the great *historian* – the first five books of the Bible are attributed to Moses.
- He was considered to be a *saint* – Numbers 12:3 says he was “*more humble than any one else on the face of the earth.*”
- He was Israel’s great *deliverer* – He led them out of captivity and through the wilderness, to the borders of the Promised Land.



Moses’ faith is expounded on in Hebrews 11:23-29. There are **five** glimpses into the faith of Moses in this passage. We will explore those this morning.

I. MOSES’ PRESERVATION² (v. 23)

The initial inklings of the faith of Moses actually did not begin with him. It began with his parents. Verse 23 says, “*By faith Moses’ parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king’s edict.*”



Moses’ parents were from the tribe of Levi and their names were Amram and Jochebed. (Ex. 2:1, 6:2) They also had another son by the name of Aaron who eventually became the High Priest over Israel, and a daughter Miriam, who helped and hindered Moses during their time in the wilderness.

It was a dark time for Israel. Their small family of 70 individuals had grown over the past 400 years into over 600,000 men, not counting the women and children. The Pharaoh of Egypt feared the people of Israel and demanded the midwives to murder all males when they were born. But that plan failed because the midwives feared God instead of the Pharaoh. So another order was given for all newborn babies to be tossed into the Nile River.

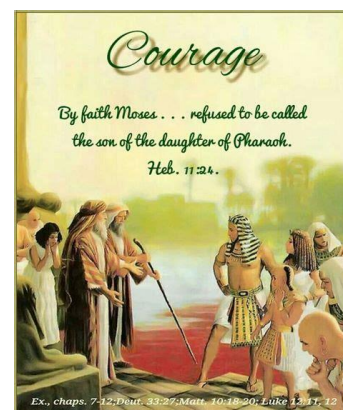


But Moses' mother and father had other plans. The scripture describes Moses as "*no ordinary child.*" They took Moses, placed him in a basket lined with pitch (tar) so the basket would not sink, and placed him among the reeds near where the Egyptian royalty bathed.

Just as they planned, Miriam (Moses' sister) was to watch the basket to see what would become of Moses. The daughter of the Pharaoh found the basket and fell in love with Moses. The word Moses means "to draw out." He was drawn out of the water and adopted into the royal family. Miriam came forward and said she knew of a woman that could care for the baby if the princess desired. So Moses was returned to his mother for a brief time while she nursed and cared for him.

II. MOSES' IDENTIFICATION (vs. 24-26)

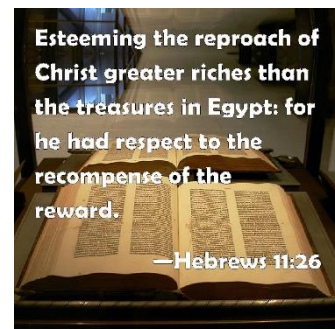
But over time Moses grew and his heritage of being an Israelite continued to weigh heavy upon him. He saw his people were being oppressed and here he was living in luxury. According to verses 24-26, we see that Moses was ready to leave the good life and join his people. "*By faith, Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.*" Moses knew what he was giving up. He was giving up power, prestige, position, wealth, comfort, and leisure.



He rejected the royal position and instead identified himself with his people the Israelites. "*He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time.*" (v. 25) Moses believed that his people were in a unique relationship with God and he knew he had a special role to play in their history. He would rather live as a slave and live in poverty for a brief period here on earth, and earn an eternity with God, than live in riches and prominence here on earth and lose an eternity with God.

We as Christians need to learn to take the long view of eternity. Our lives are only a brief moment on the time span of eternity. Our souls are eternal and what we do with Christ while we are on this earth will determine if we will live eternally with God in Heaven or our eternity will be separated from God and in Hell. Failure to accept Christ as your Savior is to reject Him. Not saying “Yes” to God and pretending everything will work out good in the end will only lead to destruction. Christ calls us to repent and accept Him as our Savior. It requires an action on our part – failure to accept Christ is actually a rejection.

Moses may not have known Christ in the way we know Christ today, but he knew enough that to continue to reject God’s people was to reject God. Verse 26 says, *“He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.”*



When Moses identified himself with God’s people, it is as if he was identifying himself with Christ. Hebrews 11:1 says, *“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for.”* Moses’ hope and future did not lie in the courts of Pharaoh; it was with God’s chosen people. He was certain of his future with God’s people and rejected the path he was on.

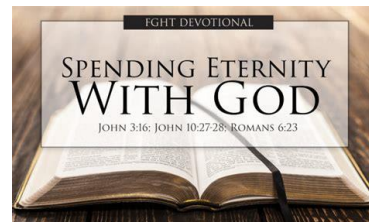
Moses lived out Romans 8:18, *“I consider that our present sufferings are now worthy comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.”* He understood Romans 8:28, *“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to His purpose.”*



We as Christians need to take comfort in knowing this truth. This body we live in is only a shell. It is only temporary. We may have trials and tribulations here, but we will receive a new body and a new home.

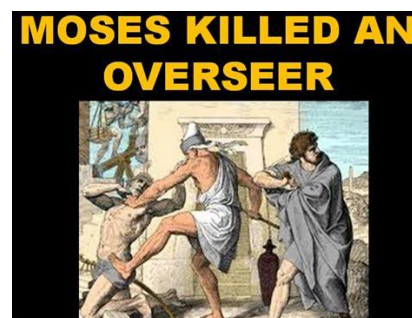
2 Corinthians 4:16-18 says, *“Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”*

Do you get it? If your body is wasting away due to sickness or disease, take comfort in knowing we have an eternal reward and an eternity with God – separated from our pain and problems here on earth. Moses traded luxury for an eternity with God.



III. MOSES' SEPARATION (v. 27)

As Moses continued to live and work among the people of Israel, he saw how they were being mistreated by the Egyptians. One day, he took matters into his own hand and thought he could lead them to a great victory over the oppression of slavery. He lifted his hand against an Egyptian and killed him and buried him in the sand. He thought no one had seen the act but it was reported among the people and news of it eventually went before the king about the matter. Moses sought to liberate his people, and now he found himself on “Egypt’s Most Wanted Poster.”



Moses sought to do God’s work on Moses’ timetable. Moses sought to liberate God’s people using man’s methods. If God’s people were to be set free, it would have to be on God’s terms – not mans.

Moses spent the first forty years of his life in luxury. He rejected the royal court and identified himself with the people of his birth. He tried to liberate them from the oppression, but now it was time to leave. Moses still hoped for what was not seen, but it could not be brought about now through the actions of Moses alone.

Verse 27 says, “*By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king’s anger, he persevered because he saw Him who is invisible.*” He was certain of the future and would have to wait for God to work it out in His manner.

At this point in Moses’ life, he may not have seen God, but he was certain that He was “*the rewarder of those that diligently seek Him.*” You and I operate in much the same manner. We have not seen God, but we are certain He exists and His Spirit lives in us, guiding us, instructing us, and encouraging us.

So Moses spent his next forty years in the desert. He married and had children. One day, he had an encounter with God. God met him at a burning bush that was not consumed. God gave him a new commission to go and rescue God's people. But Moses was not as willing now to rush in and demand that the people be set free. He even tried to get out of going because he was not an eloquent speaker. But God would not take "No" for an answer. All those years in the wilderness had tempered his youth. All those years watching sheep and goats cautioned him to not act rashly. But the Lord insisted Moses go and confront the new Pharaoh. God gave him instructions and gave him power.



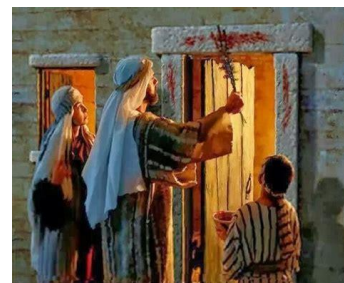
IV. MOSES' SALVATION (v. 28)

So Moses returns to Egypt and confronts the Pharaoh. Moses presents various tests of God's power to the Pharaoh by way of various plagues. Initially the Pharaoh was willing to set the people free, but after each plague was lifted, due to the hardness of heart, the Pharaoh would not let the people go free. It was the tenth and last plague the broke that will and heart of the Pharaoh.



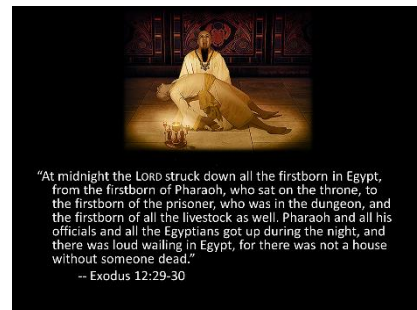
The Lord sent a plague that would kill the firstborn male of every man and beast. The only way this judgment could be overcome was through following the instructions of the Lord which were given to Moses.

Moses instructed the people of Israel to take a lamb, an unblemished lamb, and kill it. They were to take the blood from that lamb and use hyssop and sprinkle the blood on the top and side posts of the door to their house. That night as the death angel passed through Egypt, all that were in the home where the blood was placed would be free from the judgment of death to the firstborn males.



Hebrews 11:28 says, *"By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel."*

If you have seen the movie, the Ten Commandments, you remember well how the screams of mothers and fathers resonated through the streets that night. The Pharaoh relented and the people were told to leave and take anything you want from us – just leave! The people of Israel packed quickly that night and left a distraught city in grief.



"At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon, and the firstborn of all the livestock as well. Pharaoh and all his officials and all the Egyptians got up during the night, and there was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead."
-- Exodus 12:29-30

Moses took God at His word and instituted the Passover. And for several thousand years even up to today, the people of Israel (the Jews) continue to observe the Passover in the spring time of the year. Moses exercised faith in God and in doing so, Israel was saved!

- In Egypt, the lamb's blood was spilt to save a family.
- In Jerusalem, Jesus, the Lamb of God's blood was spilt to save all that call upon the name of Jesus for salvation.

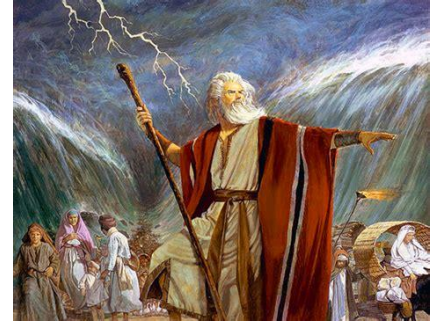


- In Egypt, a spotless lamb was chosen
- In Jerusalem, God's spotless Lamb was chosen.
- In Egypt, the blood of the lamb was placed on the wooden posts of the house' door.
- In Jerusalem, the blood of the Lamb of God was put on a wooden cross in order to become the door of life for all that call upon Him.
- In Egypt, the family gathered to observe a meal of lamb and bread the night before the death angel passed over.
- In Jerusalem, the disciples gathered the night before in the upper room to observe a memorial meal of that first Passover, which included lamb and bread. Jesus said that night he was giving them a new covenant. A covenant sealed in His blood and with His body.

Just as that little spotless lamb covered that family that night, Jesus' blood covers us and has provided salvation to our souls. Please hear me on this, only those under the covering of blood will be saved. All others will be destroyed.

V. MOSES' DELIVERANCE (V. 29)

Moses led the people of Israel away from Egypt and were headed to the Promised Land. After a few days' journey, the people of Egypt overcame their grief and were now angry. If they could not have the Israelites as slaves, then they would rather they be dead. The Pharaoh headed out into the desert with a large army and sought to destroy them.



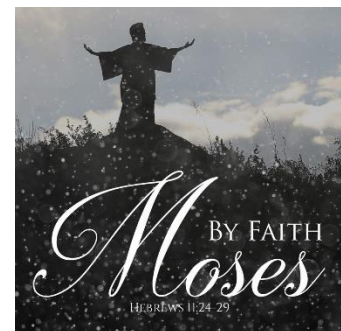
But God still was the protector of His people. He placed a column of fire between the people of Israel and the approaching army. The Lord opened up the Red Sea and all the people of Israel crossed over on dry ground. Hebrews 11:29 says, *“By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.”*



Once the people of Israel crossed over, the army followed quickly behind. The waters of the Red Sea crashed down upon them and they were all destroyed. Word spread throughout the land because time and time again, the people and inhabitants of the desert region knew that these people had a God that protected them – and they were afraid.

The people of Israel were a fickle, undeserving people. They grumbled and complained time and time again. They did not want to face hardship. They would have rather remained slaves instead of being free. Many of us today would rather continue doing what we are doing as a slave instead of living as free people. We need to trust God to work out His plans in our life and then we will be able to live as free individuals.

Moses was a premier example of an individual that trusted God and by faith overcame the enemy. If you read biographies of people like Martin Luther, John Wesley, Detrick Bonhoffer, John Bunyan, Isaac Newton, or Zurich Zwingli, you will discover they had faith that moved and inspired individuals, churches, and communities to a greater work and to a greater faith in God. We do not need to underestimate the power of genuine faith. Our one small light of faith can inspire and encourage others around us.



- By faith, Amram and Jochebed, *preserved* and nurtured Moses.
- By faith, Moses *identified* with the oppressed people of Israel and turned his back on the royal court of Egypt.
- By faith Moses *separated* himself from Egypt waiting for the Lord to rescue the people of God.
- By faith Moses obtained *salvation* for his people through the institution of the Passover.
- By faith Moses brought *deliverance* to his people by listening to God and leading and defending his people before God.



What does all this have to do with us? We are not in slavery. We are not captives in Egypt. We are not in exile. But are we?

Are we a slave to our own passions and sins? Are we not living in a land that is not our own, looking forward to a place that we will live eternally? We need to keep our eyes fixed on the eternal things of God instead of the temporal demands of today. Our culture, even our Christian culture, has their eyes fixed upon the flesh and fulfilling the needs and demands it requires.

We need to recapture some of Moses' passion and faith. Moses believed God and knew he would be rewarded by God. He lived a normal life, but he saw the unseen. We too need to walk by faith.

“He who has ears to hear, let him hear what the Spirit says unto them.”

LET US PRAY

Notes:

¹ Mikey's Funnies, Sept. 3, 2008

² Outline from R. Kent Hughes Commentary on Hebrews – p. 115-123

Preached at Fremont Missionary Baptist Church, Fremont NC
September 7, 2008

Preached at Spilman Memorial Baptist Church, Kinston NC
September 25, 2022