

Living for God in Pharaoh's World (Heb. 11:26-28)
Four More Essential Elements of Victorious Faith

Now, more than ever, we have to realize that the things we believe as Christians is counter to the popular culture in our world.

... this world is NOT a friend of grace to help us on to God.

I'm saying that our culture is not neutral toward our beliefs ... modern culture is opposed to Christianity.

... and if things continue trending in the direction that they are going we are going to have to seriously think about what it means to be distinctly Christian...

... how do we continue to serve our king Jesus in a way that is both bold and compassionate?

... how do we submit to our authorities while remaining loyal to our Savior?

This means when we as a nation decide to promote values that are contrary to the Scriptures there will be a judgment day.

... God will vindicate His righteousness to a nation that chooses, legislates, and legalizes sin.

God says something very sobering in Jeremiah 23:1 "woe to the shepherds."

Now Jeremiah is not talking about priests or ministers ... he is talking about political leaders.

However, after declaring some very specific woes against Israel, Jeremiah says that God will come and raise up a shepherd and the name for this shepherd he is raising up is "**The Lord our Righteousness.**"

... I love this because God isn't just saying that the Messiah is righteous ... he is saying that this Messiah is OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

As Christians living in a culture that is antagonistic towards Jesus Christ it is of utmost

importance that we consider how we live, act, and speak.

The world has dramatically shifted ... and it continues to shift.

... And we need to be honest and admit that the dramatic shift in our cultural landscape ... even this year is making evangelism and discipleship more challenging.

Back in 2016 Os Guinness wrote a book entitled, **“Impossible People: Christian Courage and the Struggle for the Soul of Civilization.”**

The term “impossible people” comes from an 11th century Benedictine reformer named Peter Damian.

At the risk of his career and life he spoke out against the church selling leadership positions for money as well as widespread immorality among the church clergy.

... Peter Damian was so fierce in his stand for truth and morality that he was said to be “unmanipulable, unbribable, and undeterrable.”

Here is a quote from the book:

The church can never be the church of Jesus Christ without both faith and faithfulness, and both of them in a form that is strong to the point of being stubborn. The supreme challenge of the hour for the church is to live as in the motto of the U.S. Marines “Semper Fi” –always found faithful. Rarely in 2000 years of Christian history has the calling been so tested as it is in our time. ... our task is to stand faithful to our Lord in every moment of our lives and faithful to our last breath.

I believe that God is looking for some “impossible people” who will be true even as our American culture rejects its own foundations and principles upon when this very nation was built.

As our society endeavors to build a new secular Babylon ... a godless utopia ...

As Christians we need to strive to in live in a way that frustrates the culture by living as “impossible people” ...

... people who live by the Bible and counter to the popular culture.

Moses was this kind of impossible person and I want to show you four things (essential elements of his faith) that defined his character and demonstrated his loyalty to God.

1. Moses chose a Godly Identity (v. 25)

²⁴ By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, ²⁶ considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward. (Heb. 11:24-25)

Notice the words describing Moses previous identity and chosen identity.

- The son of Pharaoh's daughter
- The people of God

Our identity matters ... how we identify ourselves is important because ... in a great way it determines what we do and who we associate with.

Moses had grown up in the palace, as a young person he was known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter ...

... that identity meant a lot.

... it gave him access to education, wealth, influence, and even relationships.

That was huge then, just as it would be today.

Certainly, the world of the media, arts, entertainment, educational institutions, want us to believe in the myth that these things of wealth, power, influence, and popularity are important.

The rational goes like this: *Moses look where you live, in the Egypt the most powerful empire, the wealthiest country. This is Egypt's time. Why don't you get with the program? Grab with gusto all that Egypt has to give you.*

But those things seemed to hold no attraction over Moses.

“He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt.”

How in the world, is Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt?

Well, from Christ everything **originates** and in Christ everything is **centered**.

The writer to the Hebrews says it like this, "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever."

Jesus did not come into existence when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Jesus has always been.

Heather came to me this week and said, "I just realized today that in the Old Testament God the Father was present with His people, in the Gospels Jesus was present with His People, and now since the time of Acts the Holy Spirit has been present with His people.

All scripture is Christian scripture and history speaks of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Jesus did not come into existence when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Jesus has always been.

There are a lot of divisions in our world ... and the news media plays up these divisions ...

... but in reality all of these divisions boil down to one single division: those who have Christ and those who do not have Christ.

And when you have Christ, Christ has you.

To identify with Christ is to be one with Christ ... and here is what that looks like.

⁸ For He said, "Surely, they are My people, Sons who will not deal falsely." So, He became their Savior. ⁹ In all their affliction He was afflicted ... (Isa. 63:8-9)

As a people who identify with Christ when we are afflicted HE is afflicted.

For 2000 years as Christians have been accused of being atheist, seditious, treasonous, scornful, contemptuous...

... and this is because of our association with Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, *“if they hate you, understand they hated me first.”*

In **Psalm 69** *For zeal for Your house has consumed me, And the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me. (Ps. 69:9)*

Now **WHY IN THE WORLD** would anyone identify with Jesus Christ if they knew that this identification would bring suffering, persecution, and reproach?

Why should we endure the reproach of Christ?

Well the text says that Moses was willing to endure the reproach of Christ **because** he was looking for the reward.

2. Moses Understood True Riches (v. 26)

²⁶ considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward. (Heb. 11:26)

The idea of reward is first introduced back in Genesis 15 when God is making His covenant with Abraham and all of God's people.

“Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great.” (Gen. 15:1)

Here is what this verse is saying ...

... the reward of God's people is to have God himself.

When Jesus says, “great is your reward in heaven” ... He is saying our reward is God who is in heaven.

And the great goal of every believer is that one day we will **in our flesh**, see Jesus in the glory of our Heavenly Father.

And let me tell you ... this will be a vision of such indescribable beauty **that every knee will bow...**

To see him will be:

- To share eternal life with him
- To look on our reward
- To enter into the life of the Godhead ...
- to experience first-hand that love that exists between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

This is what happened ...

Moses looked at Christ on one hand and then he looked at the fabulous empire of Egypt on the other hand

... and when he did Moses reckoned that the reproach of Christ was far better than the riches of Egypt.

This is exactly what Paul teaches us.

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. (Rom. 8:18)

Scales: on one side the hurts, broken promises, abuse of language, failures you can erase, burden, worries, the ways your life isn't what you want ... all your baggage ...

... **AND then on the other scale** is this "exceeding weight of glory that is beyond all comparison"

... this is the glory of God in Christ ... and it is **WEIGHTY** Glory!

... and in light of this universe of infinite glory ... everything else is nothing but a whisper.

Thinking of this matchless glory Paul wrote:

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.¹⁷ For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,¹⁸ while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal. (2 Cor. 4:16-18)

Moses was willing to **endure the reproach of Christ** because he saw the **weight of God's glory** and this **produced action** in Moses.

3. Moses Feared God more than Man (v. 27)

²⁷ By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen. (Heb. 11:27)

Egypt offered Moses everything ... but it was not enough for Him.

Why? ... because Moses was an Israelite and that identity compelled him ...

Once when he was down in the land of Goshen, he saw an Egyptian cruelly beating a Jew and in anger Moses killed the Egyptian ... and he had to flee.

But this particular reference in verse 27 is really about an event that happened 40 years later when Moses was standing before the Egyptian Pharaoh.

This was right before God sent the last plague.

²⁷ But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he was not willing to let them go. ²⁸ Then Pharaoh said to him, "Get away from me! Beware, do not see my face again, for in the day you see my face you shall die!" (Exod. 10:27-28)

So, Moses said, "OK, I'll go and never see your face again, but you need to know that God is going to send one more plague and when he does ...

⁸ "All these your servants will come down to me and bow themselves before me, saying, 'Go out, you and all the people who follow you,' and after that I will go out." (Exod. 11:8)

Here Moses is standing before this terrible tyrant,

... this dictator who rules the most powerful empire of the world and we see that Moses is **not afraid of the anger of the king**.

... This is 2 times:

Moses parents were not afraid of the king's edict and now Moses acts like his parents

... and the same spirit that was in his parents is in Moses and he does not fear the Pharaoh's anger.

Later Moses would draw on this same spirit while leading Israel across the Red Sea.

¹³ But Moses said to the people, "Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the LORD which He will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again forever. ¹⁴ "The LORD will fight for you while you keep silent."(Exod. 14:13-14)

How did Moses manage to endure ... **to not be afraid ...?**

The answer to this question goes all the way back to the burning bush in Exodus 3.

In that burning bush God spoke with Moses.

... Moses says to God, who do I say has sent me and God says to Moses "I am, that I am"

- ... I have life in myself
- ... I don't derive life from anyone
- ... My life is not contingent on anything
- This life is something that I have in and of myself "I AM"

... the burning bush was the illustration of that life that is in God.

1500 years later Jesus came to this earth and He introduced himself with the very same terms that God used to introduce himself to Moses

- ... Before Abraham was, I am
- I am the way, the truth, the life ...
- the light of the world ...
- the good shepherd

- “I am”

This is the God in whom Moses believed, and in whom we believe.

This is the only God there is ...

... and it was faith in this that enabled Moses to say to the Israelites standing on the edge of the Red Sea with Pharaoh’s army pursuing them...

“The lord will fight for you and you will keep silent.”

Moses feared and worshipped this God ... and he did not any man...

How? BY FAITH

Hebrews 11 begins by saying that faith is the conviction of things not seen here in verse 27 it says that Moses endured because of ... **seeing Him who is unseen.**

Moses by faith saw the invisible God.

... By faith Moses did not fear Pharaoh and left Egypt.

Moses was willing to **endure the reproach of Christ** because he saw the **weight of God’s glory** and this **produced action** in Moses.

... not just courage but also Overcoming Obedience.

4. Moses Had Overcoming Obedience (v. 28)

²⁸ By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, so that he who destroyed the firstborn would not touch them. ²⁹ By faith they passed through the Red Sea as though they were passing through dry land; and the Egyptians, when they attempted it, were drowned. (Heb. 11:28-29)

God said that in every house where the blood was not on the doorpost, the firstborn would be put to death by angelic destroyer.

We think, how could God do that.

... But you need to understand this announcement came with a promise.

But God gives good news ... if you take and kill the lamb and put on the blood, when the angel of death comes, he will pass over you.

... the angel of death was going to come to Hebrew and Egyptian alike

... this promise was given to both the Hebrew and the Egyptian...

In fact, Exodus 9:20 tells us that many **Egyptians heard the promise**, believed the promise, and obeyed the promise.

... and because they did their first born were also spared.

There is coming and day of judgment, but God's judgements are never without the promise of grace, mercy, forgiveness, and reward.

Before long we may find ourselves living in Pharaoh's America ... but we do not need to fear.

... because Jesus is our Moses!

- He is the one that confronted Pharaoh.
- He is the one that gave the promise of safety.
- He is the one that parted the Red Sea and destroyed the enemy

We however are the Israelites and we must follow and obey ...

... we must be under the blood.

... we must by faith stand still and see that *The LORD will fight for us while you keep silent.*"(Exod. 14:13-14)