

## Essential Elements of Moses' Faith: Courage & Choice

*Hebrews 11:23-28*

Moses is probably the 2<sup>nd</sup> most important person in the Bible

While John was introducing his gospel of the life of Jesus he writes:

***For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. (Jn. 1:17)***

All the way back in Deuteronomy 18:15 we are told that when the Messiah comes he will be a prophet like Moses.

This is the tensions that the author of Hebrews is dealing with.

These Jewish believers are thinking about turning their loyalty away from Jesus and back to Moses.

Moses was faithful over all of God's house as a servant, but Jesus has been faithful over God's house as a son.

***(Heb. 3:5-6) <sup>5</sup> Now Moses was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken later; <sup>6</sup> but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house-- whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end.***

### **1. Courageous Parents (v.23)**

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

Moses was a very important person in Jewish and Christian history ...

... and we see here that the story of Moses's faith began even before he was even born.

... In other words, Moses would have never become this important person that he became, if it not for the courage of his parents.

... the courage of two very ordinary people.

Before you can even think about the faith of Moses you have to first think about the **courageous faith** of his parents.

... and why did they need this **courageous faith**? ...

The book of Exodus tells us why.

*Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. (Exod. 1:8)*

In other words, there was a time when Israel was known throughout the land, even respected, because of their relationship to Joseph.

... Israel's presence in the land was a historic reminder that in the past God has spared Egypt and provided and taken care of them.

In the same way there have been times in history of America when the presence of the Church of Jesus Christ ... has been responsible for great good, greater blessings ...

... not just for this nation but for the whole world.

From the earliest days of America, the presence of the church has been responsible for restraining evil and encouraging good within society as a whole.

That was the consequence of the nation of Israel in Egypt.

... but then there arose a king that knew not Joseph...

... there came a period of time in Egypt where that historic memory of God's goodness to Egypt through God's people was lost ...

... and everything changed.

*<sup>9</sup> The new king said to his people, "Behold, the people of the sons of Israel are more and mightier than we. <sup>10</sup> "Come, let us deal wisely with them, or else they will multiply and in the event of war, they will also join themselves to those who hate us, and fight against us and depart from the land." (Exod. 1:9-10)*

... and we read that they devised a strategy ...

... a strategy that has been used again and again by dictators throughout history.

- Play to people's fear
- Portray a worst-case narrative
- Criminalize and remove of those who disagree

So, the decree went out (like at the time of Jesus birth) to kill the babies.

... but the courageous parents of Moses defied the decree!

Now when you think about this story you naturally assume that Moses parents just did what any good parents would do ...

... but that's not true ... it more than that ...

... The writer of Hebrews says that it was BY FAITH that they had the courage to defy the King.

Not only were Amram and Jochebed naturally good parents that "goodness" was empowered and strengthened by the Holy Spirit ...

There is nothing more wonderful than when God takes natural goodness and perfects it with His grace...

And these parents "gripped by grace" noticed that Moses was a "beautiful child" ... what does that mean?

Stephen the deacon (first martyr) tells us in his sermon recorded in Acts 7.

*"It was at this time that Moses was born; and he was lovely in the sight of God, and he was nurtured three months in his father's home. (Acts 7:20)*

Moses was beautiful, because he was beautiful to God.

By faith these parents perceived that there was something significant about this baby Moses that God was going to use ...

... they were so certain of this that they were willing to risk their lives to defend and protect him.

This is why the text says that they were not afraid of the king's edict.

This illustrates for us the spiritual conflict that lies behind everything that goes on in our lives.

The Apostle John describes this conflict in his revelation.

***And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth, he might devour her child. (Rev. 12:4)***

The child in this text represents not only the Messiah but all of His people as well.

- It is no surprise that Satan targets the church and the people of God!
- You shouldn't be shocked that the media lampoons and ridicules protestant evangelical Christians!
- It is part and parcel with Satan's plan to prosper and promote those ministries that sow heresy and discord within the body of Christ.
- This is why Muslim political candidates get promoted and popularized by the media, but the Christian faith of a supreme court justice is declared to be "problematic."

This is why Paul tells us in Ephesians 5:11 that as God's children we cannot have fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness.

When it comes to the devil and his crowd

- We are to resist
- We are to flee
- We are to have no fellowship

All this hatred that Satan has for King Jesus ... Satan has for the people of God!

The true church of Jesus Christ is the greatest threat to Satan's empire ... to his undisputed that there has ever been ...

As Christians we are aliens, citizens of another country, and as the forces of darkness rage against the light we find ourselves in this uncertain relationship with society and government.

... that was certainly the case with Jochebed and Amram the parents of Moses.

Peter writes ....

***<sup>12</sup> Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation. <sup>13</sup> Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority. (1 Pet. 2:12-13)***

We are to recognize those authorities over us and realize they have been put there by God.

We are to obey the authorities over us ... and that obedience is to come from our hearts.

... and yet we also know there is a line beyond which the earthly authorities may not go...

They cannot dictate that I disobey God's Holy Word.

They cannot force me to violate the convictions of my conscience.

This is what is happening in the book of Acts when Peter and John are told by the authorities to stop teaching and preaching in Jesus' name...

***"Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge; <sup>20</sup> for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard."*** (Acts 4:19-20)

This is exactly what the 3 Hebrew children said when they refused to bow down to serve Babylon's god Nebuchadnezzar's golden image.

The courageous defiance of Moses parents against legitimate authority ...

... it was an act of loyalty to God that they had the child and hid the child.

Where did their courage come from? ... They feared God more than they feared the king.

Jesus said it this way:

***"Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. (Matt. 10:28)***

And you probably know the story that they placed baby Moses in an ark made of reeds and hid him in the Nile river where Pharaoh's daughter finds him, and she ends up adopting Moses as her son.

God put right into the royal palace the person who would ultimately be the means of that palace undoing ...

The courage of Moses' parents set in the motion the events that would ultimately end up in the deliverance of God's people from the Egyptian bondage.

Moses became God's secret agent in the palace and because of that ... ultimately the great deliverer of God's people

You see, when God does things, He does not always do them the way you thought He would do them ... but He does them well.

But Moses didn't just have courageous parents ... He made a ruling choice.

... and this child became the Moses that the bible would say of:

***Thus, the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his friend. (Exod. 33:11)***

- The seas would part before him
- Rocks would break forth with water
- He would call Manna from heaven and quail from the skies to feed the people
- He gave Israel their tabernacle and law
- Israel saw the glory of God descend upon the mountain to visit with Moses.

What is so profound to me is that this Moses was the child of 2 very ordinary parents who were trusting God and doing what they could do to try and resist the genocide of the babies raging around them ...

... and they saved their son.

**They did what they could and trusted that God would overrule to his own glory.**

Doing what we can do, as a church and individuals, is all that God expects of us.

- We are not expected to be superman.
- We are not expected to be able to lead buildings in a single bound

In 100 years if Christians in America are known as a strange minority of people who don't kill their babies, and don't kill their elderly we will have done a great thing.

Even if we don't win elections, if we are in the majority, the world gives us good press

... what matters is that we do what we can do, that we are faithful, that we take a stand for truth and against error, for orthodoxy against heresy, for life and against death

... the evil of this world and the faithfulness of the church will in the end both serve the accomplishment of God's will.

This story of these obscure people, who in the providence of God gave Israel it's deliverer at that time ...

... is in the Bible to encourage you and me, that no matter how weak, small, or insignificant we feel ourselves to be

... that being faithful, in our small corner

... with the opportunities that present themselves to us

... being faithful enables us to one day prove that He who called us is faithful and He will accomplish His will for His glory, for the good of His people.

## 2. Made a Ruling Choice (v. 24)

I will cover the last four elements in Moses faith next week, but today I want to leave you with a preview of this second point.

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

These three verses are in fact, one sentence.

... And in this sentence, we are given a description of the result of Moses's faith first

... Then we are told the process by which he came to that result.

Here is the thought process of the author of Hebrews.

Moses considered the cause of Christ greater than the treasures of Egypt

... with that in mind Moses chose to be mistreated with the people of God.

... he was demonstrating his refusal to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter.

So, you can see that the heart of this verse is saying, "by faith Moses choose Christ."

**By faith Moses chose Christ over the honors of Egypt.**

## 3. Chose a Godly identity (v. 25)

## 4. Understood true riches (v. 26)

## 5. Feared God more than man (v. 27)

## 6. Had overcoming obedience (v. 28)



