

Holiness - Moses an example of Holiness

1

Hebrews 11:24-26 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

Here is a man who provides a practical example of what it is to live by faith. All those wanting to live by faith can look at his example and learn so very much. He left us a pattern of what faith can do in promoting holiness of character.

This text is taken from the Apostle letter to the Hebrews a letter specifically written to encourage the believers facing persecution. This chapter would refresh their heavy hearts. Its words would be pleasant as the honeycomb sweet to the soul and health to the bones Proverbs 31:6 16:24.

The text in Hebrews 11 is about men of Faith. Moses provides an example we can relate to. He made a deliberate choice. It was not just an impulse. He thought about it and chose his path. **He was adopted by Pharaoh's daughter and had the prospect to be a prince in Egypt but chose rather by faith the adoption of the King of Kings.** I think He knew that all that Egypt could offer was only for a season. Pleasures for a season but in God it was for ever more.

In the same way this world offers us things that glitter and sparkle. That look so good. But when we get them, the world's treasures are false and deceptive. We find they are empty bubbles which can never satisfy. Even the world's best riches have no ability to satisfy our hearts. Even if we should get much of the world's riches, death will separate us from them all we can not keep even the smallest. Moses made a decision, a choice and if we want to be Christians of Great Faith, if we want to be consistent Christians we must make a choice. I'm going to reject worldliness and turn to the Lord.

First let's look at what Moses gave up and refused. He gave up three things for the sake of His soul. He felt strongly that He must do what is the right and He made three very costly sacrifices. Possibly the most costly sacrifices a man can make.

He gave up **Position (rank) and greatness.** *"He refused to be called son of Pharaoh's daughter"*. Pharaoh's daughter had rescued the child from the bulrushes, adopted Him and educated Him. Its very possible Moses could have become King if He had chosen Egypt rather than His God.

How great was this temptation. It was the greatest Rank honour Power and title the world could offer, and it was within his grasp. These are things most men long for. Men struggle to get recognised. There is a race in the world to obtain fame, and be a somebody that is looked up to. These are things which many sacrifice time and thought and health and life itself to get. But Moses turned His back upon all even when it was within His grasp and reach.

And more than this, —**he refused pleasure. The pleasures of Egypt.** Just think of someone in His position, all the pleasures of Egypt were at his feet. Pleasures of every kind, Sensual pleasure, social pleasure, whatever he fancied was available. Egypt was a land of Artists, a residence of learned men, the centre of everyone who had skill and talent, Science of every type and description, all ready for His enjoyment .. There was everything to feed ‘**the pride of life**’ ‘**the lust of the eye,**’ ‘**the lust of the flesh.**’ 1 John 2:16 Moses had this cup at his lips he could have drunk as deeply as he liked on all the earthly pleasures – but he turned his back upon all these earthly pleasures.

—**he refused riches. Hebrews 11:26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward.**

Modern translation bring out - for he was looking to the reward. He considers the reproach for believing not to be compared to the riches the coming messiah would provide. **IT WAS FAITH THAT DETERMINED HIS DECISION AND CHOICE.**

Nothing but faith. **WHILE HE LOOKED AHEAD.** The Greek word had **respect unto.** Has its meaning on the negative side. **Rather he looked away from all the riches of Egypt.** But he made a decided decision to look away from the riches of Egypt.

Our application of this truth would be we have needs and plans we are looking to that are quite normal and part of life. Like what career I'll follow, or where I should live, or A good income to feed my family, these are legitimate and right - then the thought comes – you would look so good if you achieved this or that, people would think more of you, you would be a big man, you would command respect. Before long you are absorbed in self-indulgence seeking to be recognised. **The Worlds seeks after these things.** The Christian seeks first the Kingdom of God, The Christians delight is in the Lord, He shall give you the desires of your heart.

I'm a believer I want my life to be a blessing to others, I have Christian priorities, I'm not going to be trapped in self-indulgence. **I want to live for Christ.** I want to please Christ.

I want to put Christ First. I understand that true riches are above and not beneath. If I seek and put Christ first He is faithful to keep me, all the needs I have beneath will be met.

The riches at Moses's disposal were exceedingly great. Also the temptation was great, Consider the power money gets over people, The Love of money which drives people. The Love of money that pierces men through with many sorrows. Just look at the endurance people will go through to get money. If they were to hear that a land far away had diamonds or gold – they would travel, there even if it was very far. Show them a way to make even 1% more profit on their money and they will consider you wise. But here we read of a man who could have been rich very rich - He turned His back on the treasures of Egypt and refused them.

Moses gave up riches, He refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter and made a decided decision, to **give up rank, pleasures of the world and riches.** It was not just a hasty decision in the excitement of the moment. He was decided upon this. **He was no fool** He was in the prime of His life at 40, He was highly educated and learned in “**all the wisdom of Egypt.**” He was well able to weigh and understand both sides of the question. He was not like a dying man about to leave the world knowing that he couldn't keep it. No! Moses seeing clearly what was before Him, refused what he could have enjoyed, Rank pleasure and Riches.

Many others have done well in the way of self-sacrifice and self-denial, but the example of Moses excels them all. **Oh some may say and protest, we are not called to follow**

Moses... why are you labouring this point - All scripture is inspired and profitable. *1*

Corinthians 10:11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition,(recorded for our benefit) upon whom the ends of the world are come. Then look to our

Lord and Master, He sacrificed much more than Moses. Jesus Christ who left heaven.

Philippians 2:7-8 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: [8] And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

He is our pattern – He said Follow me. But also all that is written in the Old testament is for our benefit and instruction. An ensample – a template that we may follow.

Let's look and see what Moses Chose His choices were even greater than His refusals, **He chose three things for His souls sake.** Three things that man usually never chooses. He chose suffering and affliction. He left the comfort of Pharaoh's court. And

boldly sided with the Children of Israel. Anyone who befriended the despised and hated Israelites would surely taste something of the bitter cup they were daily drinking. It seemed impossible that there would ever be deliverance for them. How would they ever possess their own country.

Look at this choice - All people naturally shrink away from pain. They draw back from suffering. If there are two paths in front of us and they are both right, we will take the one with the least suffering. **Even the thought of pain** and suffering makes us worry and very anxious. **We try everything to avoid it.** And when we are forced to endure it, we often complain and murmur.

But here is a man of like passions, a man like us who chooses suffering. He saw the cup and chose it and preferred it to Pharaohs court.

Then on top of that He chose the company of a despised and hated people. He left his circles where he was high and mighty and very rich, and he joined Himself to the poor slaves, the tormented labourers in the brick kiln.

Many times, we think it enough to carry our own troubles, Moses took on the trouble of the despised Israelites.

The nobles of the Land laughed at Him, called Him a fool saying he has lost his mind.

No, He hadn't lost His mind it was a deliberate choice. We are told Moses was no fool He was mighty in words and in deeds.

He was not forced to make such a choice. They were things he sought and went after by His own free will.

Let's examine and ask WHY and what moved Moses to make such a choice.

What is the reason for such behaviour to refuse that which most call good, and to choose that which most think evil of. One thing we know this is not the way of flesh and blood, It's not the normal choice of men. **What is the explanation?** We see the answer in our *verse Hebrews 11:26 By faith Moses.* It all lies in one little word, and that word is "FAITH."

Faith made Him refuse what he refused and chose what He chose. He did it because He believed.

His understanding was opened, God revealed unto Him that a Saviour would be born.

Moses believed this promise, God had spoken, and He believed the promise. He believed Gods Word. He knew God was a covenant keeping God and would surely perform what He had said.

His mind may have reasoned that deliverance for Israel was out of the question, there seemed too many obstacles. But **FAITH told Moses that God was more than enough** and that His will shall surely be done. **He believed that God was all wise**, - Natural common sense might have tried to tell Him that his actions were wrong that he was wasting and throwing away His influence. And destroying any chance of helping the Israelites. **But FAITH told Moses** that if “God said Go this way” it must be the best way. **His faith was in a merciful God.** He could have reasoned to himself surely there must be an easier way, a way that these hardships could be avoided, **but FAITH told Moses** that God is Love and that he would not give His people one drop of bitterness beyond what was needed.

FAITH is a telescope and Moses saw the land afar off. A land of rest and peace and victory. When all his natural eye could see was a barren wilderness full of tribulation. **Faith was and interpreter to Moses** that helped him pick what the natural mind couldn't understand. Faith enabled Him to read God's handwriting and make the right choice. **Faith told Moses** all His rank and greatness upon the earth was so little and poor and vain and besides he saw it was a fleeting thing that was soon passing away. He understood the Highest greatness is serving the Living God, God alone was the King. **And by Faith He belonged and chose this family.** Faith also understands it's better to be the last one in heaven than the first one in Hell.

Faith told Moses worldly pleasures were pleasures of sin. Pleasures that gave birth to more and more sin. That Such pleasures would be displeasing to God. He thought the pleasure would be of small comfort, and not help if God was against Him. **Better to suffer and obey God than to be at ease and in sin.**

Faith told Moses that after all these pleasures were only for a season, they could not last – that it would be all over within just a few years.

FAITH told Him there was a reward in heaven for the one who believed far richer than all the treasures of Egypt. **Faith said Moses** look away from the Gold of Egypt that will dazzle your eyes Look to the unseen heaven where true riches are.

FAITH told Moses that Affliction and suffering were not real evils - they were the school of God in which he trains His children – in which he purifies our corrupt wills, the furnace that will burn away the dross, the knife that will cut away the cords that bind us to the world.

Faith told Moses the despised Israelites were the chosen people of God. He believed that to them belonged adoption, and covenant and the promises of glory. That of them one

day the seed of the woman would be born, who would bruise the serpent's head. Who would be the Messiah the redeemer.

It was better to be a doorkeeper among the people of God than to reign in Egypt's palaces of wickedness.

Moses saw by Faith – these were the things he believed, He was fully persuaded of them and he embraced them and held tightly to what Faith opened His eyes to see.

Was He not right to chose as he chose? Does he not speak to us, though dead to this very day. The name of pharaoh's daughter has perished. The city where Pharaoh reigned is not known today. The treasures of ancient Egypt are mostly gone – But the name of Moses is known where ever the bible is read. It still stands as a witness – that whosoever lives by Faith HAPPY is He.

What lessons can we learn - For one thing if we want to be saved we must make a choice like Moses made. - **We must Choose God before the World.** If you want to be saved – you must choose who you will serve. You cannot serve both God and mammon. You cannot be on two sides at once, you cannot be a friend of Christ and a friend of the World at the same time. You must come out from the ways of the Children of the World and be separate in behaviour from them. You must be willing to put up with much ridicule and mockery. **Gods way is narrow and steep and its no use pretending its not.** A true sign you are saved is you have chosen like Moses Chose? Do You prefer Gods ways to the ways of the world. Are you clinging to the world saying I must have what it offers? Is there any cross you take up daily to follow Him. Do you know anything of the afflictions of the Gospel. Have you left Pharaoh's daughter and joined yourself to the people of God. Remember the saying if there be no cross there will be no crown. Remember the Scripture. **Luke 9:23** And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

Holiness is not giving up this pleasure or that position- Its 'self' which is to be denied-not this or that part of our nature, but the central 'self.' The will is the man, and *it* is to be brought into captivity to Jesus, **so that the true Christian says,** 'I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me.' That is much deeper, harder, a more wholesome teaching than separate strictness or leaving of this or that.