

Hebrews 11:24-26

Whereas the previous verse mentioned Moses, the emphasis of faith was that of Moses parents. Here, it is Moses who is commended for his faith. Moses was convinced that standing with God's people and forsaking the riches of the world was much more beneficial than the opposite.

24 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

As with the previous ones mentioned in this chapter it was "by faith" Moses did what he did.

Exodus 2:

- 5 And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself at the river; and her maidens walked along by the river's side; and when she saw the ark among the flags, she sent her maid to fetch it.
- 6 And when she had opened it, she saw the child: and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, This is one of the Hebrews' children.
- 7 Then said his sister to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee?
- 8 And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother.
- 9 And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages. And the woman took the child, and nursed it.
- 10 And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water
- 11 And it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out unto his brethren, and looked on their burdens: and he spied an Egyptian smiting an Hebrew, one of his brethren.

Perhaps he was weaned up to the age of 4 -5. "According to Jewish law, a healthy child can nurse up to age four, and a sickly child through age five.: www.chabad.org

Moses could have been taught the truth in these early years. Or, perhaps God appeared to him in unique ways we are not aware of (such as how He spoke to Moses through a burning bush and at Mt. Sinai).

What do we learn from verse 24?

- 1) Each of us need to stand "on our own two feet."

Moses when he was "come to years" (mature) took a stand for what is right. This verse is especially challenging to young people.

We are being asked to believe the Word of God and act on it. Being the son of Pharaoh's daughter came riches, power, and glory.

Ephesians 4:

- 11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;
- 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:
- 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:
- 14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

2 Timothy 3:

- 15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.
- 16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
- 17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

2) Moses refused to identify with the Egyptians. In the same way, we need to refuse to identify with the world.

- Moses turned his back on the riches of the world

Proverbs 11:28 "He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch."

Proverbs 22:1 "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold."

Matthew 6:24 "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

- Moses turned his back on the power of the world

Matthew 4:8-10 "Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."

- Moses turned his back on the glory of the world

Isaiah 5:14 "Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it."

2 Corinthians 10:17 "But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord."

Romans 12:1-2 "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

If we choose to follow Christ we will be hated by the world

John 15:18-21 "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me."

2 Timothy 3:12 "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

The "pleasures of sin" in this instance was the comfort and riches of the Pharaoh's court. The "pleasures of sin" will eventually take its toll.

James 1:15 "Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."

Consider the testimony of Emperor Licinius' wrestlers of the Romans Empire in 320 AD.

26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

"Esteeming" - considering or accounting

1. What does it mean that Moses esteemed "the reproach of Christ?"

Is this a superimposing of a truth on Moses' thinking or did Moses actually "esteem the reproach of Christ"?

What did Moses understand about Messiah (Jesus) as recorded by the writer of Hebrews?

W.E. Vine - "The 'reproach of Christ' (not 'reproach for Christ') means Christ's reproach. That scoffing and mockery which Christ endured, and which His faithful followers still endure, was anticipated by the godly long before Christ became manifested, though they may have dimly foreseen Him."

1 Corinthians 10:4 "And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ."

John 1:45 "Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

John 5:46 "For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me."

Moses weighed the benefits of God (Christ) versus the treasures of the world (Egypt).

Proverbs 13:7 "There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing: there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches."

The narrative of Moses and his estrangement from Egypt was being confronted by the LORD God.

Exodus 2

- 23 And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage.
- 24 And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.
- 25 And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them

See Exodus 3:1-6; 13-15; 4:5; 5:1 where it is the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob speaking. Perhaps the best understanding of this verse is that this is an argument for the deity of Jesus/Messiah through the inspired pen of the writer of Hebrews. The writer in Hebrews chapter one has argued through many passages from the earlier Scripture that the Son, Jesus, is God. He is being consistent in His teaching that Jesus is BETTER because He is Jehovah God, and Moses considered the benefits of following God (Messiah) better than anything the world has to offer.

- 2 Moses understood the temporal benefits of this world were much lesser than the eternal benefits of God and His kingdom.

Hebrews 6:10 "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister."

1 Corinthians 3:14 "If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward."

2 John 1:8 "Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward."

2 Corinthians 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

5 Crowns

Incorruptible Crown - 1 Corinthians 9:25 Given to those who have self-control in life

"And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible."

Crown of Rejoicing - 1 Thessalonians 2:19 Given to those who share the Lord

"For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?"

Crown of Righteousness - 2 Timothy 4:8 Given to those who love the second coming

"Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

Crown of Life - James 1:12 Given to those who suffer for His sake

"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."

Crown of glory - 1 Peter 5:4 Given to elders who rule well

"And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away."

Matthew 19:28-29 "And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life."

"This comforting promise of reward to the Twelve, moreover, is extended generally in verse 29 to 'every one' who has made sacrifices and suffered loss for His 'name's sake.' All such shall receive an 'hundredfold.' The immediate and close connection with verse 28 places the time of their recompense at the future 'regeneration' of the world to be effected by the establishment of the Kingdom."

Alva J. McClain, The Greatness of the Kingdom, BMH Books, May, 2001