

Living by Faith

Lesson 7: Faith That Chooses God's People: Moses -- Hebrews 11:23-28

Imagine the most privileged childhood the ancient world could offer. A palace of polished stone and cool fountains. Servants who answer before you finish speaking. Tutors in every science, the finest food in the kingdom, and a title that opens every door: son of Pharaoh's daughter. Imagine being raised at the very center of the greatest empire on earth, with the whole sweep of Egypt's power and pleasure laid out before you like a banquet. And then imagine walking away from all of it. On purpose. With your eyes open. Because you had seen something the palace could not give you.

That is the staggering choice at the heart of Hebrews 11:23-28. Moses, the prince who could have had everything Egypt offered, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He counted the reproach of Christ as greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to the reward. We tend to picture Moses at the burning bush or parting the sea, but Hebrews fastens on something quieter and harder: a man weighing two lives in his hands and deliberately choosing the one that cost him more.

Most of us will never stand in a palace. But every one of us makes the same kind of choice in smaller currency, again and again. We choose comfort or conviction. We choose to blend in with the crowd or to be counted with God's people. We choose the pleasure we can grab now or the reward we cannot yet see. Sin really does offer pleasures, Hebrews admits it plainly, but it calls them fleeting, here for a season and then gone. Moses looked past the season to the reward, and it changed everything he did.

This lesson invites you to look at your own hands and ask what you are weighing. Faith, when it grows up, becomes a chooser. It says no to what glitters and yes to what lasts. And at the very end of the passage we find why such a choice is even possible: a lamb, its blood on the doorframe, and a destroyer passing over. Long before Calvary, the gospel was being written in blood on Egyptian doors. Moses kept the Passover by faith, and we will see that the same blood that saved Israel points straight to Christ, our Passover, the Lamb whose blood still delivers us from death.

Group Discussion: Our culture tends to admire people who climb toward power, comfort, and status, not those who walk away from them. Why do you think a deliberate choice like Moses' refusal of Pharaoh's palace strikes us as so strange, and what does that reaction reveal about what we ourselves treasure?

Personal Reflection: Think of a moment when following God clearly cost you something: a relationship, an opportunity, your reputation, or simple comfort. What did that experience teach you about whether your faith is willing to choose God's people over the world's rewards?

Study Questions

1. Hebrews 11:23 says that by faith Moses' parents hid him three months 'because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.' What does it tell us about faith that it can overcome the fear of a powerful ruler's command, and how does this set the stage for the choices Moses himself will later make?
2. Moses' parents acted on faith long before Moses could choose anything for himself. Who first carried faith on your behalf, parents, grandparents, teachers, an older believer, and how has their courage shaped the person you are today?
3. Verse 24 says that 'by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter.' Why does Hebrews describe this as an act of faith rather than merely a political or personal decision, and what does it mean that faith is sometimes expressed in what we refuse?
4. Moses had to grow up before he made his great refusal. Where in your own life do you sense God calling you to a more grown-up faith, a faith willing to refuse something good in order to hold on to something better?
5. Verse 25 says Moses chose 'rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.' Notice that Scripture admits sin has real pleasures. Why is it important to be honest that sin is genuinely enjoyable for a season, and how does calling those pleasures 'fleeting' change the way we should weigh them?

6. Be honest about the pull of 'fleeting pleasures' in your own life. What is one passing pleasure you are tempted to reach for that quietly competes with your commitment to God's people and God's ways?
7. Verse 27 says Moses 'left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible.' How does fixing our eyes on the unseen God give us the courage to do hard and costly things, and how does this connect to living by faith rather than by sight?
8. Moses 'endured as seeing him who is invisible.' What helps you keep the reality of God before your eyes when fear, pressure, or discouragement makes Him feel far away?
9. Verse 26 says Moses 'considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward,' and verse 28 says that 'by faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them.' Why does the writer of Hebrews say Moses suffered for the sake of Christ centuries before Christ came, and what does it mean to treat the reproach of Christ as greater wealth than the world's treasures? How does the Passover lamb and its blood on the doorposts point forward to Jesus, 'our Passover lamb' who has been sacrificed (1 Corinthians 5:7), and to the redemption we have through His blood?
10. Looking back over Hebrews 11:23–28 as a whole, where is God asking you to make a costly choice to be counted with His people and to value the eternal reward over passing comfort? Name one concrete way Jesus is forming this kind of choosing faith in you right now.

Now or Later

Reflect on these passages: 1 Corinthians 5:7, Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed, so the deliverance of Israel points forward to our redemption in Him; Exodus 12:21–23, the original Passover, where the blood of the lamb on the doorframe turned away the destroyer; Matthew 16:24–26, the call to deny self and take up the cross, counting the cost of following Jesus; Philippians 3:7–8, Paul counting all his worldly gain as loss for the surpassing worth of knowing Christ; 1 Peter 1:18–19, we were redeemed not with silver or gold but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish.