

First Baptist Church Merritt Island

The Faith of Moses, part 1

Hebrews 11:23-28

March 17th, 2019

Main Point

From his birth to the exodus of Israel, the life of Moses exemplifies living by faith. For the next two weeks, we will learn valuable principles about faith from his example.

Getting Started

Read Exodus 2:1-10 in preparation for today's study which focuses on the faith of Moses' parents and the faith of Moses.

'Now a man from the house of Levi went and took as his wife a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer, she took for him a basket made of bulrushes and daubed it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child in it and placed it among the reeds by the river bank. And his sister stood at a distance to know what would be done to him. Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her young women walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her servant woman, and she took it. When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby was crying. She took pity on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children." Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So, the girl went and called the child's mother. And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So, the woman took the child and nursed him. When the child grew older, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "Because," she said, "I drew him out of the water." '

Observation

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ HEBREWS 11:23-28

How did Moses' parents demonstrate faith in God by hiding Moses for three months?

Why did they hide him? What was their alternative to hiding Moses from the king?

Why did Moses refuse to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter? Who did he choose to identify with instead? According to verse 25 what did he reject as a result of associating himself with the Jewish people?

Why did Moses endure the wilderness? How could Moses see him who is invisible? What does this mean anyway?

What does the author mean when he says that Moses considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than sin? Why would Moses intentionally choose to identify with the slaves of Egypt?

Read verses 27 and 28. How did Moses demonstrate his faith in these two verses?

Application

“for we walk by faith, not by sight.

2 Corinthians 5:7.

Think about the ways in which Moses walked by faith and not by sight. He chooses to be identified with the people of God rather than the house of Pharaoh, even though he had access to the riches of Pharaoh’s household. He chooses to leave Egypt to go into the unknown of the wilderness, even though he was a prince in Egypt. He instructed the Israelites to observe the Passover, even though God had not yet delivered them from slavery yet. Moses demonstrated a willingness to believe God, despite what he saw with his human eyes. Think about the condition of your own faith. *How are you walking by faith and not by sight?* Ask God to stir up biblical faith within your heart. Tell him where and how your struggle to believe his promises. Share with people in your group how God has demonstrated his faithfulness to you recently. And ask them to also pray for you where your faith is weak. Read God’s word in anticipation of him strengthening your faith. May God strengthen your faith, so you do not walk by sight, but you walk instead according to the promises of God! *What promises from his word has God impressed on your recently?*

Prayer

Verse 27 tells us that Moses saw ‘*him who is invisible*’. That’s why he followed God, even when life got hard. Lord Jesus, please open the eyes of our hearts to see you by faith. Help us receive and believe the promises of your word, even though we don’t know how things will work out. Impress your promises on our hearts. We believe you are faithful to fulfill your promises. We believe in your steadfast love for us. And we believe you want to demonstrate your kindness and love for us and through us. We praise you and thank you for who you are and your work for us!

Commentary

11:23 The parents of Moses preserved his life in hope (Exodus 2:2 and Acts 7:20).

11:24-26 Moses refused the sinful privileges of Egypt, including those of being the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. Instead he identified with God’s people and thus sought God’s reward (Ps. 16:11). As Christ truly suffered on behalf of the people of God, so too Moses, who similarly suffered on behalf of the people is said to bear Christ’s reproach. Hence, Moses serves as a model for believers to endure such reproach on behalf of knowing and following Jesus.

11:27 By faith he left Egypt refers to Moses' flight from Egypt into the wilderness. He could have presented himself to Pharaoh as his loyal subject and begged for forgiveness for murdering an Egyptian. He chose instead to leave Egypt and endure the wilderness by trusting that God would provide for him. He endured the wilderness for forty years, which prepared him to endure another forty years in the wilderness with the people of God.

11:28 By faith he kept the Passover. Moses celebrated Passover before seeing the deliverance it would bring (Exodus 12:1-32).

Adapted from www.smallgroup.com and Serendipity Bible for Groups, fourth edition