



BY FAITH

MAY 24 - AUG 2

(6) "Moses"

HIGHLIGHT: *Hebrews 11:23-29 NLT*

H

Below are excerpts from the overall passage for use with the APPLICATION and RESPOND. It will be beneficial for the group to read the whole passage to understand the entire context.

23 It was by faith that Moses' parents hid him for three months when he was born. They saw that God had given them an unusual child, and they were not afraid to disobey the king's command.

24 It was by faith that Moses, when he grew up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter.

25 He chose to share the oppression of God's people instead of enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin.

26 He thought it was better to suffer for the sake of Christ than to own the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to his great reward. **27** It was by faith that Moses left the land of Egypt, not fearing the king's anger. He kept right on going because he kept his eyes on the one who is invisible. **28** It was by faith that Moses commanded the people of Israel to keep the Passover and to sprinkle blood on the doorposts so that the angel of death would not kill their firstborn sons.

29 It was by faith that the people of Israel went right through the Red Sea as though they were on dry ground. But when the Egyptians tried to follow, they were all drowned.

E EXPLAIN

E

The purpose of this section is to deepen everyone's understanding of the Word.

Exodus 1 helps us understand the passage we are studying today. The first seven verses condense 4 centuries of Hebrew history. Everything has changed from the time that the Hebrew people knew the prosperity of living under the leadership of Joseph, son of Jacob. **8** Eventually, a new king came to power in Egypt who knew nothing about Joseph or what he had done. **9** He said to his people, "Look,

the people of Israel now outnumber us and are stronger than we are. **10** We must make a plan to keep them from growing even more. If we don't, and if war breaks out, they will join our enemies and fight against us. Then they will escape from the country. **11** So the Egyptians made the Israelites their slaves" (Exodus 1:8-11a).

v.23 The "ethnic cleansing" has begun in Egypt (see Ex. 1:16, 22). But **Moses' parents were not afraid to disobey the king's command because they saw that he was an unusual child** (The greek word for *unusual* is used only twice in the N.T. Both describe Moses, here and Acts 7:20). It's hard to know what made Moses so "special" (Ex. 2:2). It could have been his physical appearance, an innate sense of the wrongness of killing the child (they might be aware of the murder of Abel by Cain and how God said that "Abel's blood cried out to Him from the ground", or how the plan of Joseph's brothers to kill him was wrong [Gen. 37:21-22]), or if God let them know that Moses was a special child that He wanted to use ("he was beautiful in God's sight" [Acts 7:20])—we don't know. Whatever it was, their **faith** emboldened them to do the right thing in spite of the odds against them. But God was in this (see Exodus 2:1-10). It's hard to stand for the right when the wrong seems so powerful. But we are called to be the people of God who reflect his character (see 1 John 4:7-8).

vv.24-26 Being **the son of Pharaoh's daughter** Moses had the world at his fingertips (see Acts 7:21-22). But because Moses **looked ahead to his great reward, he thought it was better to suffer for the sake of Christ than to own the treasures of Egypt**. Wise is the man who realigns his life because he knows that some things are more important than others. The Apostle Paul writes of the priceless value of knowing Christ (see Philippians 3:5-10). Christ gave up the glories of heaven so that we might enjoy them (see Philippians 2:6-8 and 2 Corinthians 8:9). Williams Barclay says that Paul "would rather suffer for the right than enjoy luxury with the wrong" (*The Letter to the Hebrews*). See the words of Jesus in Matthew 16:25-26).

v.27 There is some question as to which event in Moses' life this verse is referring. Some think that it is referring to the Exodus at which time Moses stood toe-to-toe with Pharaoh and boldly proclaimed the message of God—"Let my people go" (see Ex. 12:31-42). It was Moses' faith in **the one who is invisible** that bolstered him in the storm of **the king's anger**. Others believe that it refers to Moses' "flight to Midian after he killed an Egyptian (see Exodus 2:11-15). The way they reconcile **not fearing the king's anger** (Heb. 11:27) and "then Moses was afraid" (Ex. 2:14) is that Moses' keeping his eyes on the one who is invisible inspired him to move through his fear—proving the the more people fear God the less they fear any man, however powerful (Coffman's commentary on Hebrews). Courage is not the absence of fear, but the ability to move on in the face of that which is fearful.

v.28 The last of the Ten Plagues on Egypt was the visitation of the **angel of death** that would kill all the first-born of Egypt but would spare those who **sprinkled blood on the doorposts** (see Exodus 12:12-13). Moses had the courage to command the people: 'Trust me no matter how crazy it sounds.' I must ask myself, 'Do I have the faith to walk forward when God says to—even when I can't see how it can work?'

v.29 Perhaps the greatest test put on the Israelites was **going through the Red Sea on dry ground**. They were "between the devil and the deep blue sea." Humiliated and angry, Pharaoh chases after the Israelites "with all the forces of his army" (Ex. 14:9). The Israelites were trapped. "Better to be a slave in Egypt than to be a corpse in Egypt" (14:12) was the way they viewed the situation. How ridiculous were Moses' words: "Don't be afraid. Just stand still and watch the Lord rescue you today" (14:13). And God

was faithful. **Israel went through the Red Sea as though they were on dry ground. But when the Egyptians tried to follow, they were all drowned.** Failure to trust God in the crisis would have meant slavery for Israel. How often we stay captive to “parasitic sins” (Hebrews 12:1, *The Message*) that suck the life out of us when we could find our freedom in following God. Yes, there may be scars. But we are alive and free!

A

APPLY

Be comfortable with some silence as people think back to the sermon or reread the text. Answer honestly. You don't have to answer every question.

1. What stuck out to you in what you heard in the sermon or read in the text?
2. How does Moses demonstrate true faith in God?
3. What can we learn from the faith of Moses' parents?
4. In v. 27 we see Moses “kept right on going because he kept his eyes on the one who is invisible.” How can we keep our eyes on God today?
5. In what way(s) have you experienced that the pleasure sin brings is only temporary? What happens when the temporary pleasure goes away?

R

RESPOND

The purpose of this section is to take action with the truths you're learning. Answer honestly. Find someone who will hold you accountable to living out your response to Scripture.

1. What are you doing to constantly keep your “eyes on the one who is invisible”? (v. 27) List out daily activities you do or can do to keep God the focus of your heart. Are there things you should be doing that you aren't?
2. When the Israelites faced the land ending at the edge of a large sea and their former enslavers coming to take them back to captivity, Moses' faith was in God, the miracle worker. Think of some situations you have faced that seemed hopeless. What led you to trust God to provide a way out?

Maybe you are facing a situation now, how can you trust God now?

Maybe you didn't trust God in the past, what can you learn now?