

Faith Overcomes The Praise Of Man

Introduction. Moses was a man who had to make many difficult choices, but he made these choices by looking through the eye of faith (Hebrews 11:1). Each decision was made because of the “things hope for” but “not seen” at the time of the decision. “By faith” does not mean by fanciful wishing or by a blind leap in the dark. “By faith” means by assurance that God will continue to keep His word as He has always done. Reliable testimony to God’s past deeds is the ground and evidence for faith that God will keep His present promises. That very faith becomes the ground upon which men proceed to do God’s will and persevere in doing it.

Many times we love to ask the question, “Is it possible to make the best of both worlds?” From the point of view of the world, the answer is “No,” but from the the point of view of faith, the answer is “Yes.” We are going to see how Moses made the best of this life by putting his faith in God and overcoming the desire for the praise of men (Hebrews 11:24-27).

I. ***His Rejection***

- A. Moses, being about forty years of age, was considered a son of Pharaoh and had to make a choice. The writer implies that his choice was due neither to childish ignorance, youthful impetuosity or an aging mind, but to the decision of a responsible adult. He was in the full faculties of maturity and vigor. Although it was a deliberate decision, it was also a decision of self-renunciation.
- B. Moses was high in station among the Egyptians. Moses’ great learning, eloquence and accomplishments were told by Stephen in Acts 7:22. This man had in the palm of his hand every favor and advantage which the ruling class of Egypt could offer. Moses’ faith was a kind of faith that overcame the world and gave victory over man and all his praise (1 John 5:4).

II. ***His Resolve***

- A. He chose to suffer affliction with God’s people. He consciously identified himself as a child of God and a brother to every suffering Hebrew. In Exodus 2:11, Moses went out to his people and saw their hard labors. He defended his brother and slew the oppressive taskmaster. Moses decided to suffer for the right at all costs and to strike a blow for the defense of God’s people (2 Timothy 3:12). He could not be both an Egyptian and an Israelite (cf. Matthew 6:24; Joshua 24:15).
- B. He chose to follow this path instead of enjoying the pleasures of sin for a short time. “The pleasures of sin” implies that once he saw where God’s call lay, it would have been sin for him to turn away from it and align himself with the Egyptians. There would have been pleasures,

but they would have been enjoyed only by turning his back on God.

- C. Abuse is always associated with Christ, and to be a Christian is to expect as much (Hebrews 13:13). As he considers Moses, he is sure that it has always been that way. The reproach which Moses suffered was the same in which Christ suffered. The pleasures in serving Christ are eternal (John 3:16; 11:25-26). While we endure affliction it seems heavy and never ending, but while we look at it from the side of God's glory, there is not so much difficulty (2 Corinthians 4:16-18).

III. ***His Reward***

- A. He chose the reproaches of Christ greater than all the riches of Egypt. On one hand, there were all the privileges and refinements an ancient empire could offer. There were the gratifications of the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life (1 John 2:15-17). On the other hand were poverty, contempt and affliction; for Israel at this time was a nation of slaves, groaning under its heavy load, with broken spirits and vanished hopes, hemmed in to daily abuse. Through all this Moses knew that earthly riches were unsure and unsafe. Reproach itself is not desirable, but when a man receives reproach in an effort to serve God, it is worth more than gold (1 Peter 1:7; Hebrews 13:13).
- B. Moses looked forward to the fulfillment of the promises made to their fathers, that they would possess Canaan and all nations would be blessed because of them (Genesis 12:1-3). He also knew there was a heavenly reward waiting for Him. If Moses were waiting for an earthly reward, he would have remained in Pharaoh's court (Matthew 6:21). The word for "looking" means to "look away from all other objects to look only at one." He fixed his eye on the goal and suffering for Christ will be rewarded (Romans 8:18).

IV. ***His Reaction***

- A. Many have understood this verse to refer to first time when Moses fled Egypt to go to Midian (Exodus 2:14-15). However, when Moses left Egypt as the head of the Hebrew people, he had no such apprehension. His confidence in God nerved him for the tremendous work. God had manifested Himself over a ten month period with the plagues and led the children of Israel out with a high hand.
- B. Amid all the trials and difficulties associated with the exodus, Moses endured because he had no more doubt that God would sustain and lead them than if he saw Him with his own eyes. When we are afraid of what people will do or say, we are manifesting a lack of faith. Moses was not afraid of Pharaoh because his faith always saw the approving smile of God (Psalm 56:11). This is a truly accurate account of the nature of faith (cf. 11:1).

Conclusion. If we have the faith of Moses, we will look beyond appearances and the praise of men. God calls the sinner to forsake the momentary pleasures of sin and to stand for the truth even in the face of suffering. By teaching the gospel, we will wear the stigma of belonging to a "narrow-minded sect." Doors of opportunity will close because we will not social drink, go to bars, laugh at filthy jokes, use profane language, cheat or lie. Educational doors will be shut to our children because they do not want to attend the prestigious Sodom and Gomorrah University. We may have to turn down lucrative promotions rather than take a position where ungodliness is demanded or live in a place where our children do not have the support of godly friends.

We need people of endurance in God's service. Some brethren are so deep in business, social, recreational or political affairs that they have almost no time for prayer, personal Bible study, Bible classes, gospel meetings, teaching their neighbors the gospel or even the regular assemblies of the church. Indifference abounds and the love of many is growing cold. Who will make the decisions and sacrifices which help to raise up one like unto Moses? Who will suffer for the right rather than enjoy the pleasures of sin? Who will patiently endure in the face of setbacks? The decision is mine and yours!