



Light from the Word

The Faith of Moses

“By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter;” Hebrews 11:24

As I began thinking about writing this article, I was mowing the front yard and I marveled at how different life is today than it was in the days of Moses. The neighborhood was peaceful, the grass green, and supper was in the making. I wondered how I could possibly write about Moses’ faith from the perspective of a suburban home in 21st century America. My mind went to the desert of Sinai and the burning bush. An adopted Egyptian noble exiled to the desert tending sheep. A bush that was burning but not consumed. The voice of God. The faith to lead an entire nation out of slavery to the promised land. How can these things be relevant to us?

They are extremely relevant.

If we can see them through spiritual eyes, we will see that the decisions that Moses faced are decisions that we all face, and we can understand that his experiences are not that different than ours. We will also comprehend that faith is a critical element in decision-making, only becoming active when we are faced with a choice. Let’s consider Moses’ choices.

By faith, Moses chose to declare his loyalty, defending an Israelite who was being attacked by an Egyptian, thereby aligning himself with the people of God. While the Word is clear that we cannot condone the sinful act of murder, Moses’s loyalty to God’s people was clearly demonstrated. Although he hoped it would not become known, it became common knowledge and Moses fled to the wilderness. Is this all that different from our own experience? Even those who are raised by believing parents are “adopted” by the world. The devil is like Pharaoh’s daughter, taking us in and treating us royally – as long as we do not align ourselves with the people of God. Like Moses, if by faith we demonstrate loyalty to the people of God, we will find ourselves no longer accepted by society and we will become separated— in a social wilderness rather than a geographical wilderness. Choosing to reject the world and align with the people of God requires faith.

By faith, Moses chose to associate with the friends of God. We can see that God provided for Moses as he escaped to the wilderness by connecting him with a family that respected and honored the one true God. We can be assured that even though we may be isolated in a social wilderness, He will provide for

us. Moses was taken into his new family by the priest of Midian, Reuel, whose name means, “Friend of God”. In a similar manner, we are taken into fellowship by the church. By faith, though exiled from the world, we find safety, friendship, and accountability, in the church family. The church is a friend of God and will shelter us, though we live as pilgrims and strangers in a foreign land. Moses could have chosen to move on and find something better than to live as a nomadic shepherd in the wilderness. But, by faith, he chose to associate with the “Friend(s) of God”.

By faith, Moses chose to obey God. He had eyes to see and ears to hear when a voice spoke to him out of a burning bush. After forty years of preparation in the desert, the Lord called him to go back to Egypt and demand freedom for his people. Moses had a choice. Continue in his now-comfortable life in an established household or risk everything to go back to Egypt. He felt incapable and raised all kinds of questions and objections to God. The Lord answered all of Moses’ concerns. Moses had a choice to make. By faith, he obeyed God. In our time, the Word of God is like that burning bush. It is full of a fire that burns but does not consume. If we are willing to take notice

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of it, God will use it to call us to all kinds of actions which we are incapable of doing. But God will answer all of our concerns and provide capabilities beyond our own, just as He did for Moses. By faith, we can choose to obey God's Word – even though we don't understand it fully or know how to accomplish what the Lord teaches us to do.

In many other ways, the faith of Moses is relevant to us today. He believed that God was able to protect him against Pharaoh's wrath. We can believe that God will protect us against the devil's wrath as we carry out the work of God. Just as Pharaoh threatened Moses, the devil will threaten us. Just as Pharaoh pursued Moses and the children of Israel, the devil will attempt to bring us back into bondage. Just as Moses saw the forces of Pharaoh destroyed and no longer able to pursue the children

of Israel, by faith we can trust God to "part the sea" and "make a way of escape" for us in every situation.

By faith, Moses chose to believe that God would lead them through the wilderness to the promised land. We choose to believe that God will enable us to safely "cross the Jordan" into eternity. By faith Moses trusted God to provide food for over a million people in the desert. We choose to believe that God will feed His people in the spirit by the manna of the Word. By faith, Moses brought forth water out of the rock, trusting God to meet the most life-giving need in the direst of times. Today, we choose to believe that the blood and water that flowed from Jesus's side will supply us with life.

Paul writes that all that happened to Moses and the children of Israel was for our benefit, that we could learn from their example. It hardly seems fair. They were slaves so that we can understand that living in sin and serving the devil, is

slavery. Their disobedience teaches us to obey. Their desire to go back to Egypt teaches us to be content with our life of faith, never desiring to go back to the ways of the world. Their unbelief kept them from entering the promised land – so that we can learn not to fear death but trust completely in the goodness of God to keep His word to us and wipe all tears away.

Just as Moses had choices to make in his day, we have choices to make. Will we reject the mindset of the world and be willing to be separate and stand alone on the promises of God? Will we choose to associate with God's friends and be content with such things as we have? Will we choose to obey God's commandments to deliver others from slavery and stand against the devil? By faith, will we follow the leading of His Spirit toward heaven, learning from the mistakes of those who have gone before?

Like Moses, by faith, let's choose to obey God in all things and believe His promises.