

Hebrews 11: Can I Trust God? Can God Trust Me?

Part 6: Christ or Egypt? That is the Question... (11: 23-27)

Then Jesus said to them all: “Whoever wants to be My disciple MUST deny himself and take up their cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for Me will find it.”

Luke 9:23-24

What good would it do to gain *the whole world*, yet forfeit your soul?
What would you give *in exchange for your soul*?

Matthew 16:26

That is our question today, brought into bold relief by the story of Moses’ life-defining choice between identifying with the Messiah—or all Egypt had to offer.

By faith Moses’ parents hid Moses for three months after he was born, because they realized he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king’s edict.

Hebrews 11:23

To Amram and his wife Jochebed *a son was born*. The 1st century Jewish historian Josephus, in his *History of the Jewish People* records the ancient rabbinic tradition that Amram was given a vision that *his son would be a deliverer of his people*.

So Jochebed and Amram *laid their family on the line* to save this newborn son. It is a famous story—of Pharaoh’s daughter finding the Hebrew child and determining to keep him and *raise him as her own*—as a prince of Egypt.

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. He chose to be oppressed with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a ‘time’ (*kairos*).

Hebrews 11:24-25

Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and both his words and his actions were powerful.

Acts 7:22

Moses underwent the best education that the *most enduring and educated world empire of his day* could offer. The armies of Egypt had conquered a vast empire.

To this court in *the zenith of its power* the young Hebrew boy was brought and made a prince of Egypt. Moses became mighty in both words (*a statesman*) and deeds (*a warrior*). **The kingdoms of the world were his.**

Then an amazing thing happened. Moses, in the flower of his fame; Moses—who commanded the allegiance of the greatest fighting force on earth, Moses, a learned sage of the intellectual apex of his day... **Moses said NO to it all.**

Let us be real. Moses could have *enjoyed* the many pleasures of Egypt’s bouquet of sin—*for a time*. The word translated time is not the usual Greek word for time: “*kronos*”. It is “*kairos*,” a word used in the Bible always as a short but *decisive* time, the kind of time that determines destiny.

Moses weighed the visible luxuries, prestige and sensual pleasures of Egypt’s courts against the ancient prophecies of an enslaved people from whose grim lives he had been rescued and given every conceivable advantage.

He weighed them—and did what few in their lesser spheres, faced with such a choice, have ever done. **He turned it all down.**

Against the full weight of the most refined temptations of the world, **Moses cast his lot with the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob:**

He believed it was better to suffer for the sake of Messiah than to possess all the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

Hebrews 11:26

The devil took Jesus to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and all their splendor. “All this I will give You,” he said, “**if You will bow down and worship me.**” Jesus said to him, “Away from Me, Satan! For it is written: **‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.’**”

Matthew 4:8-10