

**SERIES: STORIES OF FAITH
SERMON: BY FAITH WE CHOOSE
7-21-24**

OPENER:

2 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV) For we walk by faith, not by sight.

This life is a journey of many choices and each step must be taken “BY FAITH”!

Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV) Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

First, our senses can deceive us. We often see and hear things that are not really there, and we can misinterpret what we do see and hear.

Second, our experiences can be misleading. We may have had negative experiences in the past that make us doubt God's goodness or power.

Third, the world is full of distractions and temptations that can lead us astray. If we rely on our own understanding, we may easily be led astray.

- **Listening to God. When we recognize God's voice, we'll have assurance about what to do and where to go.**
- **Obedying God. Obeying God shows we really trust Him, and each time we obey Him, our faith grows stronger.**
- **Depending on God. Human nature wants to be self-sufficient, but we desperately need God's wisdom, strength, and help.**
- **Waiting on God. Our willingness to patiently let God move in His own way reaps great blessings—and prevents big messes.**
- **Acknowledging and learning from our failures. The Bible tells us that God exalts the humble (Matthew 23:12).**

**IF YOU ARE GOING TO LIVE A LIFE OF FAITH.
THEN YOU ARE GOING TO WALK BY FAITH.
YOU ARE GOING TO MAKE CHOICES BY FAITH.
BY YOUR TRUST IN GOD AND WHAT YOU HOPE FOR
IN GOD - NOT IN WHAT YOU SEE.**

SECOND OPENER:

Hebrews 11:23-30 (NKJV)

By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command.

²⁴ By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, ²⁶ esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. ²⁷ By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible. ²⁸ By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them. ²⁹ By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned.

Moses stands as a giant when it comes to faith, character, and resolve to serve the Lord. Moses was a gifted leader whom God used to bring about His plan for Israel and the world. Moses is often cited as a biblical example of servant leadership; he demonstrated a deep love for God and others, humility in his approach to God and his own abilities, and a forceful zealotry to serve God, and His chosen people. The lessons we can learn from his faith should strengthen our faith as well.

Numbers 12:3 (Now the man Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth.)

The Bible describes him as *“the man of God”* and *“the servant of the LORD”* .

In fact, his relationship with God was so intimate that the Bible says that *“the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend”* (Ex. 33:11).

Let's look at MOSES' BEGINNING:

Hebrews 11:23 “By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command”

BIBLICAL ACCOUNT:

Exodus 2:1-10 And a man of the house of Levi went and took as wife a daughter of Levi. ² So the woman conceived and bore a son. And when she saw that he was a beautiful child, she hid him three months. ³ But when she could no longer hide him, she took an ark of bulrushes for him, daubed it with asphalt and pitch, put the child in it, and laid it in the reeds by the river's bank. ⁴ And his sister stood afar off, to know what would be done to him.

⁵ Then the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river. And her maidens walked along the riverside; and when she saw the ark among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it. ⁶ And when she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby wept. So she had compassion on him, and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."

⁷ Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for you?"

⁸ And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the maiden went and called the child's mother. ⁹ Then 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. ¹⁰ And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. So she called his name Moses, saying, "Because I drew him out of the water."

(Explain scripture) Moses' parents, Amram and Jochebed from the tribe of Levi, were people of faith. Moses was born in Egypt in an era when the midwives were under orders by the Pharaoh to kill all Jewish newborn males.

But Moses' parents demonstrated faith in God and hid Moses for three months. When Jochebed could no longer hide him, by faith she made an ark of bulrushes, daubed it with asphalt and pitch, and laid Moses in it by the riverbank. Pharaoh's daughter (most possibly Hatshepsut, the young daughter of Thothmes I) discovered the infant and asked Moses' sister, Miriam, waiting nearby, to summon a Hebrew nurse.

In God's sovereignty, Jochebed (his own mother) became his nurse. Pharaoh's daughter gave Moses to his mother and even paid her wages until he became Pharaoh's daughter's adopted son.

So, Jochebed had a number of years to implant in Moses a sense of his Jewish identity. This is a beautiful example of how God honored the faith of a humble, God-fearing couple. He answered their prayer, spared their child's life, and because of their faith, God fulfilled His purpose for him.

MOSES' LIFE IS DIVIDED INTO THREE MAJOR SECTIONS OF 40 YEARS EACH:

- > The first 40 years were spent in Pharaoh's court.
- > The second 40 years, in the desert of Midian.
- > And the last 40 years, in the desert of Sinai.

Note:

The number 40 generally symbolizes a testing, trial, or probation period. It can also mean or symbolize a generation of man. Moses was also on Mount Sinai, on two separate occasions, for 40 days and nights (Exodus 24:18, 34:1 - 28) to receive

God's laws. He also sent spies for forty days to investigate the land God promised the Israelites as an inheritance (Numbers 13:25, 14:34).

TODAY, WE ARE GOING TO LOOK AT THE FIRST 40 YEARS OF MOSES' LIFE:

NOTE:

40 YEARS IN EGYPT'S ROYAL COURT:

History provides some insight concerning the royal court at that time:

Scholars tell us that this Pharaoh had a son, who because he was physically and mentally handicapped, was considered incapable of assuming the royal duties to which he had been born.

When he ascended the throne as Thothmes II, his sister Hatshepsut became regent and actually ruled the country.

Thothmes II eventually died without a legitimate heir, but because both his father and sister had foreseen this lack of a successor, they probably had determined long beforehand that Moses would be the eventual heir. So from earliest years Moses had been educated with this in mind, as Stephen declares in Acts chapter 7:22..... *“Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds”*

When her brother died, it appears that Hatshepsut retained supreme authority as regent in Egypt and indicated her intention of placing Moses, her adopted son, on the throne as her successor.

To legitimize this, she had planned to marry Moses to her elder daughter, Nephersu.

(Tell historically about Hatshepsut)

A number of choices were involved in Moses' journey of faith.

All of the choices that he made to fulfill God's plan were done “by faith”.

1. **BY FAITH HE CHOSE NOT BE CALLED “THE SON OF PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER” AND CHOSE TO WALK AWAY FROM THE WEALTH OF EGYPT**

Hebrews: 11:24 “By faith Moses, when he became of age refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter”.

Exodus 2:11-15 Now it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out to his brethren and looked at their burdens. And he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren. ¹² So he looked this way and

that way, and when he saw no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. ¹³ And when he went out the second day, behold, two Hebrew men were fighting, and he said to the one who did the wrong, “Why are you striking your companion?”

¹⁴ Then he said, “Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you intend to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?”

So Moses feared and said, “Surely this thing is known!” ¹⁵ When Pharaoh heard of this matter, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh and dwelt in the land of Midian; and he sat down by a well.

Moses’ royal position offered him power, wealth, pleasures and all the enjoyment and experiences that all the world had to offer.

Faith motivated Moses to make a colossal decision that would change the course of history and his life forever. Moses could have been the next Pharaoh, the richest and most powerful man on Earth. It was his for the taking.

Acts 7:23- 28 “Now when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel. ²⁴ And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended and avenged him who was oppressed, and struck down the Egyptian. ²⁵ For he supposed that his brethren would have understood that God would deliver them by his hand, but they did not understand. ²⁶ And the next day he appeared to two of them as they were fighting, and tried to reconcile them, saying, ‘Men, you are brethren; why do you wrong one another?’ ²⁷ But he who did his neighbor wrong pushed him away, saying, ‘Who made you a ruler and a judge over us?’ ²⁸ Do you want to kill me as you did the Egyptian yesterday?’

SIDE NOTE:

Bible expositor Homer Kent: “The wealth and opulence of the Eighteenth Dynasty is well known from the remains of tombs and temples. The fabulous treasures discovered in the tomb of Tutankhamen, a later pharaoh in this dynasty, speak eloquently of the luxuries available to royalty in Egypt.”

Mark 10:28-31 ²⁸ Then Peter began to say to Him, “See, we have left all and followed You.”²⁹ So Jesus answered and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel’s, ³⁰ who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life.

³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

2. BY FAITH HE CHOSE TO IDENTIFY WITH THE PEOPLE OF GOD AND BE MISTREATED ALONG WITH THEM

Hebrews 11:25 BY FAITH Moses..... choose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin.

He viewed Israel not as slaves, but as God's people. They were His people. They were his brothers and sisters. He knew the Lord had called him to be part of his people's divine destiny and was willing to suffer affliction with them.

He choose to identify and suffer with the afflictions of the Hebrew people who were toiling in cruel bondage to the Egyptians. He chose the persecution of the saints instead of the pleasures of sin

APPLICATION:

Look around are these your people?

Who is your friend group?

Are they righteous, faithful, people to God that encourage your commitment to Christ?

Do they attend God's house regularly?

Do you believe your destiny is found in God's house and with /God's people.

1 John 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

The problem is we want to identify with the world and yet still try to serve the Lord.

IT IS SAID OF MOSES THAT HE WAS A FRIEND OF GOD.

DO WE WANT TO BE A FRIEND OF GOD OR A FRIEND OF THE WORLD?

EXAMPLES:

Joseph had a royal position in Egypt for many years and remained a godly man, serving God in total commitment. The same could be said of the prophet Daniel, who enjoyed royal privileges in Babylon.

Moses was well aware of the reproach he would suffer. He did not jump quickly to leave the royal court but carefully reflected on what it would cost him before making his life-changing decision.

Matthew 5:10. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

suffer = disapproval = to be: ridiculed mocked make fun of. Laughed at to dismiss. Scorned Insulted tormented persecuted

Jesus said.....

Matthew 10:16-22 "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. ¹⁷ But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues. ¹⁸ You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. ¹⁹ But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; ²⁰ for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.

²¹ "Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. ²² And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.

The Bible is clear. If you are going to fully serve God, you will suffer persecution.

As Peter, the disciples wrote about suffering.....

1 Peter 4:12-16 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; ¹³ but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. ¹⁴ If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. ¹⁶ Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.

CLOSING:

Our problem today is we have a huge amount of information and great access to the truth of God, but we are only willing to take small risks. I fear, brothers and sisters, we value the opinion of our friends more than the opinion of God. Moses saw the Lord so clearly and trusted Him so deeply that he was willing to go from the throne of Egypt to the lowly fields of a shepherd. In that moment, God raised Moses up to be the most important man in the Old Testament. So, I encourage you to aim for this Moses-like faith. Live courageously today for His name's sake and the sake of the gospel, no matter what!