

Turn in your Bibles this morning to Hebrews Chapter 11 and we will begin with verse 23 today. As we continue to study this Chapter, and this Faith journey, let's look at just a couple of things we should have learned. Chapter 11 starts out with a definition of Faith. Look at verse 1!

***Hebrews 11:1***

***<sup>1</sup>Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.***

But is this a general faith? Is this a faith in just anyone or just anything? Because we know everyone has faith and everyone exhibits faith in their lives. What we see is that this is again showing us that there is an absolute truth and the faith being described here is a faith that should be directed towards God, the creator of all of life. The very next two verses explains this.

***Hebrews 11:2-3***

***<sup>2</sup>For by it (faith) the people of old received their commendations. <sup>3</sup>By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.***

It is a faith that understands that God created everything. The universe! Just look at these pictures from the Hubble telescope.



Look at this picture. This is a picture taken from the Apollo 11 spacecraft that had Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins aboard and two of those men were the first to walk on the moon.

Neil Armstrong being the first and then Buzz Aldrin. In fact, July 20th will be the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their walk on the moon.



And of course, he created man and woman! But it is who our faith is directed to that will determine our eternal destination. Whether it be Heaven or Hell! But it is also our faith in God that helps us get through this life and its struggles that come along the way. Hebrews 11:6 tells us exactly where our faith should be placed:

***Hebrews 11:6***

***And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.***

As we have studied the people of this chapter and their expressions of their faith. None of them had a perfect faith because they were imperfect people but so are we. Each had to make a choice. Abel, Cain, Enoch, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Esau and Joseph all had to make a choice whether to be obedient and follow God at his Word. Even before Cain and Abel, Adam and Eve had to show faith in God and listen to him because it was the doubt in God's Word that Satan put into the mind of Eve. Did God really say? The choice to obey or not to obey!

We see again through Moses that there were choices to make. Let's read our Scripture for today.

***Hebrews 11:23-29***

***<sup>23</sup> By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. <sup>24</sup> By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, <sup>25</sup> choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. <sup>26</sup> He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. <sup>27</sup> By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. <sup>28</sup> By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them. <sup>29</sup> By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned.***

These verses we have just read pretty much cover Moses' life. But what we see is that Faith had surrounded Moses life from the beginning. But again, Faith in what or may I say who? In verse 23 we do not see the faith of Moses, but we see the faith of Moses' parents.

### **Hebrews 11:23**

***<sup>23</sup> By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.***

To see the extent of Moses' parent's faith, I believe we need to see what this edict is that is of the King. First, "What is an edict?" It is a proclamation made from the King that is to be followed by everyone in his kingdom. To see what this edict is we must go to Exodus Chapter 1. Hold your fingers in Hebrews and turn to Exodus Chapter 1.

### **Exodus 1:15-22**

***<sup>15</sup> Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, <sup>16</sup> "When you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, you shall kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live." <sup>17</sup> But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live. <sup>18</sup> So the king of Egypt called the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and let the male children live?" <sup>19</sup> The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them."***

***<sup>20</sup> So God dealt well with the midwives. And the people multiplied and grew very strong. <sup>21</sup> And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. <sup>22</sup> Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall cast into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live."***

In verse 22 we see the edict. Every son born to the Hebrews shall be killed! By why? Most of you remember the history behind this. We talked about Joseph last week. Here is an abbreviated version of his life. His brothers in their jealousy sold him into slavery. But because of God's providence and through many circumstances in his life Joseph ended up second in command over all of Egypt. Eventually all of his family came to Egypt and they were given the fertile land of Goshen.

The Hebrew nation took God's edict of being fruitful and multiply very seriously and they kept having children and having children and they grew great in number. Exodus 1 tells that there was a Pharaoh that did not know Joseph and as he saw the Hebrew nation grow, and they became a threat to this King. The Pharaoh brought the Hebrew nation into slavery and oppressed them, and his oppression brought him to this point of making this proclamation.

This is where we see Moses' parent's faith put into action. Once again, we will see the providence of God. Remember faith is not faith until it is put into action. From Exodus 6 we know the names of Moses' parents. His father's name is Amram and his mother's name was Jochebed. How did they exhibit their faith?

1. They were not afraid of the Kings edict and they kept Moses.
2. After 3 months Jochebed put Moses in a basket and sent him down the Nile river. Not knowing what was going to happen to Moses. Look at the screens.



As Moses was floating down this portion of the river, Miriam, Moses' sister followed to see what may happen. The Pharaoh's daughter came down to the river and saw the basket and opened it and there was Moses. So, Moses' parents faith led to Moses being physically saved. Pharaoh's daughter recognized it was a Hebrew child. Then this little girl that just happened to be in the river. Says, "Hey! Shall I go and call you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?"

Pharaoh's daughter agreed! Who do you think Miriam went and got to nurse the baby? Yep! You guessed it! Jochebed! His mother. Now, as I read this passage of Scripture in Hebrews, and Exodus, a question came into my mind. How did this faith of Moses get passed on to him? Don't miss this! Look at Exodus Chapter 2 verses 8 to 10.

#### ***Exodus 2:8-10***

***<sup>8</sup>And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So, the girl went and called the child's mother. <sup>9</sup>And 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. <sup>10</sup>When the child grew older, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "Because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."***

So, Moses' mother got Moses and took him back to her house and the child grew older! What did Moses' mother and father do with him while they had him? Now, there is nothing specific in Scripture that tells us how long Moses stayed with his mom and dad, but scholars tell us it could be anywhere between 3 years old and 12 years old. I am not sure it would be to 12 years old, but we do know through the Jewish historian Josephus, tradition would have to at least 3 years old.

The point here is that Amram and Jochebed received their son back and having Faith in God I am sure they took this time to continue to teach and train Moses in the fact that they worshiped God, Yahweh and that he is the only one true God. We do know that it was never hidden from Moses that he was a Hebrew. We see that here in Exodus Chapter 2 verse 11:

#### ***Exodus 2:11***

***One day when Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and looked on their burdens, and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his people.***

In Acts Chapter 7, when Stephen stood before the Sanhedrin council of the Jews he says as recorded in verse 23.

***Acts 7:23***

***When he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brothers, the children of Israel.***

Could it have been that Moses' parents in the short time he had with Moses that they poured the things of God into him so that he was sensitive to God working in his life? What about us parents? Remember we were challenged on Father's Day, parents, but especially the Dads. Are we pouring into our families the things of God? The truth and the only truth of God's Word. Remember this picture?



How are we doing parents? Are we making the Word of God a priority in our homes? Remember as we have studied and as I said at the beginning everyone in this Chapter had a choice to make and that is to obey God's Word as the ultimate truth or reject it. And so is the same with Moses!

Look back at Hebrews 11 verse 24:

***Hebrews 11:24***

***<sup>24</sup>By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter.***

Now, referring to Stephen in Acts Chapter 7. In verse 22 it reads that ***Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was mighty in his words and deeds.***

Egypt was a superpower during this time. They had the strength of intellect that was creating these colossal structures. It is documented by Josephus that the Israelites were in Egypt during what was called the 12<sup>th</sup> dynasty in which some of these structures were built. Anyone know what these are?



Pyramids! Yes! Remember who Moses' Egyptian mother was! It was Pharaoh's daughter. Moses was probably being groomed to be the next Pharaoh. So, Moses had power, prestige and any pleasure at his disposal! Do you understand what I am saying here?

But at the age of 40 something happened in Moses' life. We have already read it but in Exodus 2:11 it tells us that Moses went out to his people and what did he see? The burdens they were under! Building bricks for the buildings of Egypt under the tyranny of Egypt and Moses saw how ruthless they were being as he saw one of his people, a Hebrew, being beaten by an Egyptian. What did Moses do? He murdered the Egyptian! What is murder? Sin!! We definitely do not condone Moses' action but at that point Moses made a choice. He was putting all the prestige behind him.

We as born-again Christians! Followers of Jesus Christ! We have choices to make every day. Are we going to obey God's Word or are we going to say, "No, that doesn't work into my lifestyle!" Are you saying that I can't be wealthy or have notoriety? No! But are you using that it to glorify the Lord or are you hoping to get a pat on the back? A lot of people can't handle the power, the wealth or a little bit of recognition and it can all go to their head.

Let me put it this way! Jesus said, **"If you would come after me, you are to deny yourself and take up your cross daily and follow me!"** There it is! Choices everyday of our lives! Obey God's Word or not! We will not make the right choices if we are not in God's Word and praying and seeking first his kingdom and his righteousness. Back to what God was doing in Moses' life. Look back in Hebrews 11 verses 25 through 26. After choosing to put away the prestige that comes with power Moses had received because of his training, education and being considered the son of Pharaoh's daughter. Moses sees something else.

### ***Hebrews 11:25-26***

***<sup>25</sup> choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. <sup>26</sup> He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.***

In these pagan cultural powers one of the greatest sins was the sensuality that was expressed in these pagan empires. Moses had everything he could think of available to him, but he chose to say no. I am going to honor God. You understand that any sexual activity outside of the bonds of marriage is sin.

Whether it be heterosexual or homosexual. If you are living together and are not married that is sin. That is the definition of fornication as used in 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5.

***1 Thessalonians 4:3-5***

***For this is the will of God, our sanctification, that you abstain from sexual immorality, that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God.***

Yes. Sin does bring pleasure but as verse 25 tells us it is fleeting, temporary. Are the temporary pleasures of this world worth the eternity of hell? In James Chapter 4:13-17 it reads:

***James 4:13-17***

***<sup>13</sup> Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit" <sup>14</sup> yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. <sup>15</sup> Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." <sup>16</sup> As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. <sup>17</sup> So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.***

(Mention Apollo1)

***A/V Please show this picture:***



What does Moses measure against these fleeting sins? In verse 26 Moses considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt for he was looking to the reward. You may say now wait a minute. Moses didn't see Jesus! The promise of the messiah is prophesied about in Genesis Chapter 3. That hope was extended to generation after generation. Just as Paul said in his letter to the Philippians:

***But, whatever gain I had I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.***

What we are learning from Moses and his faith here is that he was choosing to reject the power, prestige, wealth and pleasures of Egypt and we can equate that to the things of our world and our time.

Because he saw what the real reward was in identifying himself with Jesus. If we stand on the truth of God's Word there is a reproach, a persecution, a suffering that comes with identifying with Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 3:12 tells us this. Look at the screens.

***2 Timothy 3:12***

***Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.***

We may be persecuted for standing on the truth of God's Word and actually living it out in our lives. But do you know we can also in turn bring a reproach on the name of Jesus. By professing to be one of his followers but deny the truth of his word, how we talk, how we act, how we dress and what we seek from this world. But Moses saw that as nothing.

You know history tells us that the Pharaoh's would bury themselves in these tombs that were huge, and they would bring all this treasure and bury it with them because they were going to take it with them into the afterlife.

People we take nothing with us. Naked we came in this world and naked we go out! This goes back to what we learned in the fact that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob all lived in tents and verse 10 of Hebrews 11 tells us that they were looking for a city that had foundations. What was that city? Heaven, the New Jerusalem and that is our reward as well as theirs.

In verses 27 through 29 we continue to see Moses' faith to be worked out.

***Hebrews 11:27-29***

***<sup>27</sup> By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. <sup>28</sup> By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them. <sup>29</sup> By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned.***

Moses had got himself into a real mess by killing the Egyptian. Back in Exodus 2 we see that the Pharaoh did find out and was seeking to kill Moses. Moses saw that it was best to leave Egypt.

We know the story of Moses from here. Moses got married, to Zipporah and they had a son. Another 40 years went by and as Moses was keeping the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law he ended up on Mount Horeb. God appears to Moses in a burning bush and tells him that he has heard the prayers of his people in Egypt and he is sending him back to deliver them from their slavery in Egypt. After a little complaining and arguing with God Moses shows faith again and goes back.

Pharaoh would not let the Israelites go and God poured out 10 plagues upon Egypt to show the Pharaoh his power. The 10<sup>th</sup> plague was the death of the firstborn of all in Egypt if they did not do something. What was that? Yes! Put the blood of a spotless lamb upon the doorframe of their home.





Verse 28. By faith Moses and the Israelites kept this Passover and being obedient to God's Word. There is God's Word again. Their firstborn was not destroyed. Blood upon the doorframe. So that once again we see a physical redemption. Ladies and Gentlemen there was blood shed at another time and this time it wasn't a physical redemption, but it is for our spiritual redemption. There was another lamb. The Lamb of God, Jesus Christ who shed his blood not on a doorframe but on a Cross. And it is by faith that we come to God, in repentance and faith in what Jesus did for us that leads to our redemption, our salvation.

So, after this last plague the Israelites were let go by the Pharaoh. But it was not long after they were let go that Pharaoh changed his mind and came after the Israelites and that brings us to verse 29. At first, I thought that this was kind of out of place. But the more I looked at it and the more I studied I saw that this is pretty powerful.

Here are the Israelites just leaving Egypt and now they have come to the Red Sea and they are camping out. Then all of sudden there is this noise of horses and chariots. It had to be quite a noise because in Exodus Chapter 14 it tells us that Pharaoh came with all his horses, all his chariots and his army. The Israelites look up and they see this massive army coming upon them. Of course, they turn on Moses and say what have you done. You brought us out here just to die.

But Moses said, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord!" How did God lead the Israelites through the wilderness? Pillar of cloud by day, pillar of fire by night! The bible tells us that God took that Pillar of Cloud and moves it from in front of the Israelites to behind them to keep the Egyptians behind them.

Then Moses stretched out his arms by faith and God separated the waters and the Israelites walked across the Red Sea on dry land. Once they got across then God moved the Pillar and the Egyptians came to pursue the Israelites and the water came crashing down upon them and destroyed the army of Egypt.

Is that where you are today? Does it feel like there is a sea in front of you and an army behind you? It could be you are not saved and there is a battle raging for your soul. You may be in a situation in your life that just seems to big. Stretch forth your arms! In faith call out to God and see him move.