

Building Our Faith....By the Example of Moses

Introduction

1. We are continuing our study of faith so as to be able to have confidence in our God and steadfastness in our work for Him.
2. Let's keep the object of these lessons ever before us:
 - A. To show that faith, or confidence in God's promises is the means of perseverance in true religion and consequently salvation!
 - B. To know that our true faith will allow us to confront and conquer trials and tribulations.
3. We learned in the example of Noah, that a strong faith is a faith that will **persevere** for the cause of Christ. We learned in the example of Abraham that a determined faith led to his **obedience** to God.
 - A. In addition, we have learned the following:
 - 1) **Hebrews 11:1**
 - 2) **Hebrews 11:6**
 - 3) Noah persevered because he was "moved with godly fear"
 - 4) Abraham "obeyed when he was called"
4. This morning we will now look at the faith of Moses which showed a true dedication to God.

Moses

Hebrews 11:23-29

1. **Moses, the writer of the first five books of the Old Testament was perhaps the one example of faith that each one of us can relate to in our day to day life.**
 - A. **The characters of Noah and Abraham were faithful without much mentioned in regard to their weak points.**
 - B. **Moses, although a great leader and man of faith...We see his life, a life exposed openly as he tells of his personal trials, tribulations, and struggles.**
 - 1) **We can learn through his great example of faith that faith does not just happen ----- we grow toward it.**
Matthew 5:48
2. **The life of Moses had many high points, but he also records for our learning many, many of his valleys.**
 - A. **We learn to appreciate his character even more, when we take note of these valleys, some of which we also must deal with in our life as we strive to gain a deeper faith each day.**
 - 1) **Taken from his parents as an infant**
 - 2) **Was raised in a household corrupt in idolatry, with emphasis on power and wealth**
 - 3) **Taught as an Egyptian (Acts 7:22)**
 - 4) **Rejected by his own people for 40 years (Acts 7:23-29)**

- 5) **Was not a born leader, he did not want to deliver the people at God's initial call (Exodus 3:10-11; 4:10-11)**
- 6) **His wife opposed him (Exodus 4:24-26)**
- 7) **His brother made a golden calf at Sinai (Exodus 32:1-4)**
- 8) **His sister and brother rebelled against him on more than one occasion (Numbers 14:10; Exodus 17:4)**
- 9) **In the heat of the moment, he rebelled at the waters of Meribah ----- He was momentarily arrogant (Numbers 20:7-12)**
- 10) **He lost His opportunity to enter into Canaan (Deuteronomy 3:23-27)**

B. Yet through all these valleys of his life, we see strength of faith that he developed in order to be considered faithful.

Hebrews 3:5 And Moses indeed was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken afterward,

3. **Moses' life was laid open for us to examine and learn from. His life shows us that he was human as we are, a man not without sin, yet he stayed focused on "the reward" (11:26).**
4. **Let's take a look at some of the decisions that Moses made in his life, decisions that also confront us, and see how important Hebrews 11:6 played in these decisions:**

The Two Elements in Moses' Decision

1. How, when, and what decision is made, shows who a person is.
2. We see two elements in Moses' decision.
 - A. There is the negative element in that it was said of him that **"he refused"** (Hebrews 11:24).
 - 1) This was a full-fledged NO, not half-hearted.
 - 2) We must make a full fledged commitment today to say NO to the ways of the world.
 - B. There is the positive element - a full-fledged YES!
 - 1) He refused one way, but vowed to travel another way.
 - 2) Sadly, some are content with mere refusal with no desire to change and head in the right direction.

Acts 26:28 Then Agrippa said to Paul, **"You almost persuade me to become a Christian."**

 - C. More seem to be concerned with what we must say "no" to rather than what we say "yes" to.
 - 1) No to darkness, Yes to light
 - 2) No to sin, Yes to righteousness
 - 3) No to uselessness, Yes to usefulness
 - 4) No to Satan, Yes to Christ

3. Moses had a longing hope of being with God, a faith that was always growing.

The Decision of Moses Was Costly

1. **Moses had MUCH to give up in the material and social world that he lived in.**

Luke 14:27-28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not **sit down first and count the cost**, whether he has enough to finish it--

- A. **High social position - from the son of Pharaoh's daughter to a Hebrew slave.**
- B. **Enormous material wealth - to living with practically nothing.**
 - 1) **Others have been faced with a decision of wealth or Christ and failed to say "no" to wealth and "yes" to Christ.**

Matthew 19:21-22 Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the young man heard that saying, **he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.**

- C. **He gave up the only family he knew – to serve God!**
 - 1) **Pharaoh's daughter — Saved his life, educated him, raised him.**
Matthew 10:34-37

2. Not only was Moses' choice costly in what he gave up, but also in what he chose.

A. He chose suffering (Hebrews 11:25).

2 Timothy 3:12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus **will suffer persecution.**

John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, **that in Me you may have peace.** In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

- 1) Why did he choose suffering? Because he knew (he had faith, confidence) that heaven would be worth it all!**
Psalm 73:2-17 (VS 17!)

Why Did Moses Make His Choice?

1. He had a clear eye for distinguishing right and wrong
Hebrews 11:27
Matthew 6:22-23
2. He knew that the pleasure of sin was only a temporal thing.
 - A. Sin has no charm in the past. Have you ever said to yourself, “Boy, I sure wish I committed that sin again?”
 - B. Those who choose sin may laugh and rejoice in it now, but when their laughter has died, they’ll have an eternity to reflect on that decision!

Luke 6:25 Woe to you who are full, For you shall hunger. Woe to you who laugh now, For you shall mourn and weep.

3. Moses knew what real values were.
 - A. He esteemed the reproach of Christ greater riches
Hebrews 11:26
 - B. He looked to the final reward
2 Corinthians 4:16-18
4. He knew his decision would result in an eternity with God!
 - A. His trip to Mt Nebo was not the end, but rather the beginning of an eternal relationship with his God.
 - 1) May we be one of the few who are determined to make the right choices in life.
Matthew 7:13-14

Moses' Summary

1. **Key verse: (Hebrews 11:25)**
"Choosing rather to suffer affliction...."
2. **Key thought: Dedication**
 - A. Moses was dedicated to God in that the choices he made was with the thought of serving Him.
 - B. We can learn through the example of Moses that even though he sinned and made mistakes, he got his wheels back on the track quickly and kept his life dedicated to the service of God.
3. **May we have a continual and abiding faith in God as did Moses!**
 - Noah - Perseverance "moved with godly fear"
 - Abraham - Obedience "obeyed when he was called"
 - Moses - Dedication "choosing rather to suffer affliction"

Hebrews 11:1

Hebrews 11:6

1 Corinthians 15:58

2 Corinthians 5:7

Invitation

Place _____

Date _____

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