

Studies in Faith: Moses

By Faith -

God's People Fear Not

Most people, whether they like to admit it or not, worry too much about other people and what they think. We find ourselves thinking, not so much about what is right, but how we will be perceived by others. Will those we know and care about reject us because of where we stand on an issue promoted by the world system? Will friends and colleagues reject us for our beliefs? The fear of man and of circumstances is a fear that plagues most of us more than we would like to admit.

God has given us the emotion of fear and it is useful for His glory. However, after the Fall in the garden, mankind, in general, quit fearing God and began fearing the wrong things. We are called to fear God and the Bible teaches that this fear is healthy and will help us honor God. Rather than a healthy fear and submission to God, many fear the lesser things of man. When one should be fearing God, one often wastes their time worrying **not** about what God thinks but about what man thinks. Mankind's tendency to fear the things of this world is why Jesus taught²⁸ **“And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”**²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.³⁰ But even the hairs of your head are all numbered.³¹ Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.³² **So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who**

is in heaven,³³ but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 10:28-33)

It is “**by faith**” the believer begins to live in ways that shows they believe God through Jesus Christ is reversing the effects of the Fall. It is faith that causes us to be bold in the face of situations that would normally cause us to cower in fear. Faith is the opposite of fear. My beloved, if you find yourself afraid of either a situation or a person, ask yourself these questions, “Why is my faith not what it should be? Why am I afraid? How can God be gloried in this situation?”

The key idea the writer of Hebrews is teaching us in this scripture passage from Hebrews chapter 11 is; **As saved sinners we need to live in assured faith given by God through Christ and not live in fear of the world and people.** Our passage of study teaches, like Moses, we too, must see Christ clearly resulting in our heartfelt belief and living **by faith**.

Pray

God’s People Refuse to Conform (v. 23-25)

“**By faith**” is found in 25 verses of the New Testament and “**faith**” is found 287 times in the Bible – this shows us the importance God places on one having and living “**by faith**”. Please open your Bibles to Hebrews chapter 11, verses 23 to 29, “**By Faith**” is found 5 times in these 7 verses we are focusing on today. In the first three verses, one observes the writer begins with a foundation of faith, reading at verse 23, “**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.”²⁴ **By faith** Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter,²⁵ choosing rather to be mistreated with the people

of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.” The first thing we observe is Moses’ parents refused to conform to what the king or pharaoh demanded because **by faith** they feared God more than Pharaoh.

We learn a little of Moses’ parents in Exodus chapter 6,²⁰ “**Amram** (**am·rawm**, meaning “*exalted people*”) **took as his wife Jochebed** (**yo·keh·bed**, meaning “*Jehovah is glory*”) **his father’s sister, and she bore him Aaron and Moses, the years of the life of Amram being 137 years.**” What Pharaoh ordered was evil, reading Exodus 1:22, “**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.’**” The Jewish midwives and Moses’ parents refused Pharaoh’s evil order. Jochebed took action as we read in Exodus chapter 2, she “... **conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months.**”³ **When she could hide him no longer, she took for him a basket made of bulrushes and daubed it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child in it and placed it among the reeds by the river bank.**” (vs. 2-3) Moses’ parents, because of their faith, were not about to let their child be killed. I am sure a lot of this boldness came from parental instinct and love for their child. Yet the context of the verses in the original Hebrew language implies something more. The Exodus account declares Moses to be a fine or special child and Hebrews tells us Moses was beautiful. I believe it is evident in the original languages and context that this child is special or beautiful to God. In other words, **by faith** Moses’ parents knew God had a special purpose for this child. So, **by faith**, they acted to protect Moses and trust God would provide.

By faith in the unseen God, they trusted and resisted the evil law set in place by Pharaoh. The Bible teaches that we are to obey those in authority over us. “**Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority**

except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.” (Romans 13:1)

Children are to obey their teachers. Citizens are to obey those officials over them. However, when those in authority who make the rules and laws ask us to do something contrary to the Bible, then we are to obey God and not society. The Scriptures give us God’s law and God’s laws supersedes human laws. We are beginning to experience this very thing in America where people through society organizations; like public schools and government are creating rules and laws that go against the Word of God and are in truth evil. Where will we stand? Will we, **by faith**, stand firm in God? The Apostle Peter made clear where our loyalty belongs. In Peter’s first letter, written in the mid first century to a Jerusalem church suffering great persecution, we read, ¹³ **Be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme,** ¹⁴ **or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.** ¹⁵ **For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.** ¹⁶ **Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.”** (1 Peter 2:13-16) When obeying the institutions of man and their laws conflicts the Law of God, we are **by faith** to stand firm and bring God glory. Later, as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles, the High Priest arrested the apostles for going against his man-made edict. The temple guards brought the apostles before the Sadducees and the High Priest declared the apostles had violated his order to not teach in the name of Jesus Christ. Peter answered the High Priest saying, **“We must obey God rather than men.”** ³⁰ **The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree.** ³¹ **God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.** ³² **And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”** (Acts 5:29-32) The goal of the Apostles and for all Christians and for us is to seek to obey God. If a human

institution or government has abandoned its purpose as given by God for justice, truth and the care of those it is governing, then that system is in sin and we are not to obey any law that has evil intent or violates God's Word. Such as Critical Race Theory, Non-binary Gender, Canada's Conversion Therapy ban – that may soon be coming to America and as a pastor, I will refuse to obey, or Propositional Truth that is being pushed so society can avoid admitting their sin or its governing without law and order allowing the innocent to suffer. These are but a few examples of teachings and laws that go against God's Word. My beloved, the world works hard at sinning and it works hard to not admit there is such a thing as sin and this is why the world calls sin and evil - good. We, on the other hand, **As saved sinners we need to live in assured faith given by God through Christ and not live in fear of the world and people.** We, like Moses, are called by God to live **by faith** and stand against sin and evil. Common Grace is the grace of God by which He gives grace to the world because His saved children live among the unsaved. Understand Common Grace is different from Saving Grace because it does not bring about salvation. As Jesus taught concerning Common Grace, ⁴⁴ **“I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.”** (Matthew 5:44-45) Loving our enemies does not mean we accept sinful behavior.

Moses Chose God Over Man (vs. 24-25)

Moses grew up in the house of Pharaoh and in a place of honor. God worked on his heart, by God's grace he was made alive spiritually and was given faith, ²⁴ **“By faith** Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵ **choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.”** What exactly was Moses refusing? He was

not refusing an evil law decreed by an ungodly ruler although Pharaoh made such laws; Moses was rejecting an ungodly lifestyle; a lifestyle that was focused on man and not God. Moses looked at the riches of Egypt and all that he had and would have; position, authority, gold, jewels, servants, plush living, and all the fame that went along with being a prince and potentially even heir to the throne and like Paul as he considered his former ambitions after coming to faith in Christ wrote, ⁷“**But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.**” ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. **For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ** ⁹ and be found in him, **not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—** ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.” (Philippians 3:7-11) **By faith** Moses understood that he was not Egyptian, he was a Hebrew. His God was the God of the Hebrews and not the false gods Egypt worshipped. God had awakened Moses to the truth that He is the only God and this caused Moses to do an analysis of the riches found in Egypt and the riches found with God. Moses knew he could not stay serving the Pharaoh. Moses instead sought real and lasting riches as he aligned himself with the people of God. **By faith** Moses ventured out seeking what God wanted for his life. Like Moses, **we need to live in assured faith given by God through Christ and not live in fear of the world and people.**

Moses Foresaw Christ (vs. 26-27)

No one in their right mind would ever choose reproach over pleasure. No one would ever choose suffering over comfort. No one would ever choose danger

over safety. What was it that Moses understood that made him drop everything and follow the people of God into suffering and danger? Reading verses 26 and 27, Moses “considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. ²⁷ **By faith** he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible.” Moses had been given spiritual sight by the grace of God and **God’s call** caused Moses’ to be spiritually regenerated to see the things most people never see. His spiritual eyes were opened to see Jesus Christ. The choice Moses made was a choice between momentary material wealth and everlasting heavenly wealth. He saw into the future and perceived Christ, and that sight made the shine and sparkle of earthly gold lose all of its grip on his affections. As the Prophet Ezekiel spoke the words given by God, ²⁶ “I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ **And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.**” (Ezekiel 36:26-27) This is what God did for Moses and this is what he has done for us.

So, for Moses and for us what Paul wrote is true, **“If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.** ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.” (Colossians 3:1-4) God gave Moses the faith to see the invisible Christ, one look at Jesus and Moses’ life was forever changed. This is also true for me and I pray for you as well. God opening the spiritual realm and allowing Moses to see the future and Christ is not unique, reading from John chapter 8, ⁵⁶ **“Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.”** God the

Father opened the invisible to Abraham and to Moses and as they glimpsed the future Son of God everything changed. I pray God the Father has given you His grace to see the spiritual world present and future, as well.

By God's grace Moses was made aware of eternal riches and the coming resurrection, and a heavenly home. He saw it and was glad. Moses endured rejection by man gladly for the sake of Christ. Moses was no longer afraid of Pharaoh because of Christ. He loved to be numbered among God's people because of Christ. The apostle of Hebrews helps us understand this by giving an example of what it means to bear the reproach of Christ, ¹² **“So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. ¹³ Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. ¹⁴ For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. ¹⁵ Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”** (Hebrews 13:12-16) I believe the flow of logic of what God wants us to see through Exodus and Hebrews as well as the rest of Scripture goes like this; Christ suffered outside the walled city of Jerusalem. It is better to go out there and be with Jesus than stay inside the walled city. It is better to go out because Christ is out there than to stay where it looks safe. It was better for Moses to leave Egypt for the wilderness seeking God than stay where it was safe. After he returned, it was much better for Moses to go out into the unknown with God's people than for him to remain in what seemed to be a very safe and secure place as slaves. It is better for us to live for Christ than to seek the false safety society wants us to believe in.

As we think through this text, we must guard against a works mentality. Moses did not obey in order to receive. Abraham did not do works in order to

reach God. None of the patriarch's achievements earned them the right to be counted among the people of God. The Lord worked and gave them faith and when their faith was functioning, they could see into the future. They understood that there was more coming, that God had a plan for His people. They understood that Christ was of infinite value and they followed the desire of their new hearts of flesh given to them by God. It was not out of a work's ethic that they followed. Christ had become their treasure and out of love and affection for this new found heavenly treasure they left everything for Jesus Christ, the Messiah.

It is not a lasting sacrifice it is only a brief sacrifice to follow Christ when our affections are set on Him. Paul had this same faith. He knew that to bear reproach was better than the material wealth that the world offers. In Paul's letter to the believers in Corinth, who were suffering harsh persecution he gave God's truth, ¹⁷ **“For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,** ¹⁸ **as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.”** (2 Corinthians 4:17-18)

Christians do not need a crystal ball to look into the future. We do not need to seek a medium to tell us things. As a side-note; Saul sought a medium to see the future and it cost him dearly. Everything believers need to know can be seen through the eyes of faith and the Word of God. I do not know the specifics about the future. I may live to be 100 or die at 68. I may die of old age or in an accident. But I do know that Christ is sovereign over my future and whatever He has ordained will be fine because He is there. When we close our eyes in this world, we open them in the next and Christ will be there waiting for His people. What else is there to really be concerned about?

Last week we looked at three men who live to an old age. Whether we live long or short it is only a matter of a few years. What is critically important is seeing Christ **by faith** and chasing after Him rather than spending our time chasing after things of the world; fame, power, and wealth.

By faith Moses' parents did not fear Pharaoh's law. **By faith** Moses did not fear reproach and rejection. Moses did not even fear the greatest plague that God would send to Egypt, the death of the firstborn. So, my beloved, what is there for use to fear? **As saved sinners we need to live in assured faith given by God through Christ and not live in fear of the world and people.**

Moses Led God's People (v. 28)

The connection that the writer is making has to do with Moses seeing Christ **by faith** and leaving Egypt. However, Moses did not leave alone. When God grants us faith to love and adore Christ, we are not to keep that treasure to ourselves. Reading verse 28 of Hebrews chapter 11, **“By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them.”** Like Moses who acted **by faith**, we too, **by faith**, are to lead others out of danger into the safety of Christ.

For a people group, the Hebrews and for us as parents I cannot think of a greater fear or heart wrenching experience for one's firstborn to die. It would be painful for us to lost a firstborn child, but understand how much importance the Hebrews placed on the firstborn; inheritance, assuming leadership of the family and property and passing on the family name and legacy. Today, these things are not as important for our modern society. However, the pain of losing a child is painful to one's very soul.

Moses instructed in Exodus chapter 12, "... when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight. ⁷ Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ... ¹¹ It is the LORD's Passover. ¹² For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and **on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD.** ¹³ The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt." (Exodus 12:6-7, 11-13) Moses believed all God said. Moses led the Israelites to obey all God said. Moses knew that the blood of the lamb would be sufficient to save him and all of God's people. Just as Moses believed the blood of a slaughtered lamb would be sufficient to keep death and judgment from devouring God's people, so too the blood of Jesus Christ, the true Lamb of God, will save all who are covered under Him.

As the Exodus began, there was one last major obstacle for Moses and God's people before they were free of the Egyptians. What was this freighting event and how would God overcome?

God's People Obeyed (v. 29)

As the Hebrews reached the Red Sea and the Egyptian army approached the people cried out to Moses "For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." (Exodus 14:12) They saw the immediate danger and lacked the faith God had given Moses. It was not until God miraculously parts the sea for the Hebrews to escape, do they understand the power of faith in the one true God. A few verses later we read, "Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all

night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.” (Exodus 14:21) It was the miraculous work of God that gave the people faith even if it was short lived. The writer of Hebrews tells us in verse 29, “**By faith** the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were **drowned.**” The people fear was abated when Moses stepped forward in faith and raise his arms declaring God would do a miracle, but I think most did not believe until the sea parted. ¹³ “**Moses said to the people, ‘Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. ¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.’**” (Exodus 14:13-14) I can hear the grumbling and doubt until the waters part. Moses’ powerful faith was an example for others. When he was put between a rock and a hard place with no human way out, he trusted God. Rather than cowering in fear Moses conquered in faith. He stepped out into the sea and God made a pathway through it. God fought for the Israelites and God won the battle. God’s glory was made famous for all to see. Yet, even though Moses lived **by faith**, the majority of the people did not. Moses’ faith got them through some tough spots, but the people needed their own faith and because they lacked faith the Lord had them wander for 40 years and did not allow them to see the promised land.

We, as those who have been saved, need to live **by faith** before God acts because through history and the Bible, we know God is forever faithful. God calls us, His children, to **live in confident faith rather than cowering fear**. The truth God wants us to take away this day from what He has revealed to us in Exodus and Hebrews is; **Like Moses, we too must-see Christ and live by faith!** Amen!