

Exhortation

“By faith . . .”

10. Moses (Heb. 11:24-29)

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BY FAITH he **refused, chose, esteemed** and **kept**. These actions recorded of Moses are an insight into the mind of the man whom God chose to lead the people out of the land of bondage. They are indicative of the depth of his faith, and show that it was the result of a careful consideration of the situation before him. We may not be called to a great work like Moses, but here set before us is the example for us to follow.

It was a deliberate act on the part of Moses when he **refused** to be called a son of Pharaoh's daughter. Was there a ceremony coming along when he would be formally adopted as a royal son with the prospect of heirship of the Egyptian throne? We know not, but observe that it was “by faith” that he refused. His preference was to be associated with those who, according to his faith, were not a race of slaves but “the people of God”, with a Divinely appointed destiny. Here was an enslaved people, but one which would, in the mercy of God, be brought back to the land of their fathers.

For Moses, there was the prospect of wealth, honour, power and pleasure if he chose to ally himself with the family of Pharaoh. But choosing these would be setting aside things of eternal worth. Association with Egypt meant experiencing “the pleasures of sin for a season” only. God would judge Egypt when He delivered His people; what of Moses then?

Moses' choice was made upon the respective values of the present and the future. Well instructed by faithful parents, he would be aware that the fathers of Israel had accepted the lot of sojourners, with the prospect of Christ's day in view. Had he received a Divine revelation that he was the one chosen to deliver Israel? Possibly. Stephen says, “it came into his heart . . .” (Acts 7:23).

This was the moment of choice. He refused and **chose**. But it was “by faith” that he made the choice, fully recognising the consequences. He believed God's Word. Thus Moses would be

identified with Christ because his decision entailed reproach. This far surpassed all the treasures of Egypt.

We can appreciate the wealth that was Egypt's in those far-off days, but Moses saw that possession of it was but for a short time. There was a “recompence of the reward” of much greater value, and it was this that Moses esteemed. He refused, he chose, and he **esteemed**. Here was a mental process developed by a knowledge of God's plan; therefore it was “by faith”. The tense of the verbs used here implies that his decision was made once for all; there was no going back on the choice made. That is how our faith should be; the choice once made, there should be no reconsideration at a later time.

His choice meant exile and forty years' preparation for the task that lay ahead. Then came the time for the Exodus, and Moses returned to Egypt to seek the release of the Israelites. He was now the instrument through whom God would make known the judgements on Egypt. He did not fear the king, because “he endured, as seeing Him Who is invisible”. His faith-sight gave him courage.

Pharaoh had refused to let the people go into the wilderness to keep a feast to the Lord. Now preparations were made to keep a feast in his land! Nine plagues had come without Israel being delivered.

Faith was certainly needed now. “Through faith he **kept** the passover”. That faith had to be communicated to the whole nation. They would need faith, faith in the blood-sprinkled doorposts and lintel. Would that protect from the angel of death? It would if their faith was equal to the situation.

How strong is *our* faith in *our* ‘Passover’? The blood of Christ is as effective for our salvation as the Passover sacrifice was for Israel's release. Let us, in full assurance of faith, refuse the pleasures of sin, and choose allegiance to the people of God, esteeming the reproach of Christ to be the greater riches.