

We have been going through Hebrews' examples of people of faith. The author has given us illustrations of their acts that demonstrated their assurance of things hoped for and confidence in the unseen (Hebrews 11:1). They trusted God and acted on that trust in ways the world could not understand, for the world walks by sight and not by faith (2 Corinthians 5:7). The people of faith know the unseen world is even more enduring than what fills our physical senses. The Hebrew believers needed these illustrations of those who had gone before to help them face what was coming with believing faith. They needed the reminder that this world is not our home. We often need this reminder too. We are just passing through. Our destination is that city that has foundations, whose builder and maker is God (Hebrews 11:10). This realm is our decision field in which we must decide whose side we are on. Will we choose King Jesus, or fall under the illusion of believing we are the captain of our own fate?

The illustrations of people who chose to fall under the leadership of King Jesus continues today with the example set by Moses. The account of his life is so rich with illustrations because he told us that he was a foreshadow of the One to come (Deuteronomy 18:15). He predicted that God would raise up from the Jewish people someone like himself to whom we must listen. So let's start by looking at a few of the parallels.

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. Hebrews 11:23 Moses was threatened from birth. The Pharaoh wanted to reduce the male population of Israel and ordered the male babies thrown to the Nile god. His parents hid him until they could hide him no longer, and then made a little basket of reeds and set him in the reeds in the Nile. Pharaoh's daughter rescued him, and raised him as her own (Exodus 2:3-6). Moses means "drawn out."

Jesus was threatened from birth as well. Herod the Great wanted to kill anyone who might threaten his hold on the throne, and the Magi said the one that was born was a new king (Matthew 2:2). Where did God have Joseph take his family but down into Egypt, just as another Joseph had done almost two thousand years before to save his family (Matthew 2:19; Genesis 45:19-20).

As Moses grew, he came to recognize his calling was to rescue his people from slavery. As Jesus grew, He came to recognize His calling was to rescue all people from slavery to sin (John 8:34-36). Moses did lead the people out of bondage and through the wilderness. Jesus leads us out of the bondage of the carnal nature and through the wilderness of this fallen world. Moses received the Laws of God to guide the new nation. Jesus is the Word made flesh and reveals God's will for our lives (John 1:17). Moses led the people to the Promised Land. Jesus leads us to the true Promised Land, our eternal home. There is one great difference. Moses could not bring them into the land because of his sin. Joshua had to do that. Jesus, whose name is the same as Joshua (Yehoshua/Yeshua), brings us all the way in, for He never sinned (1 Peter 2:22).

Commented [PW1]: Hebrews 11:1 (ESV)

¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Commented [PW2]: 2 Corinthians 5:7 (ESV)

⁷ for we walk by faith, not by sight.

Commented [PW3]: Hebrews 11:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

Commented [PW4]: Deuteronomy 18:15 (ESV)

¹⁵ "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—"

Commented [PW5]: Exodus 2:3-6 (ESV)

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.

⁴ And his sister stood at a distance to know what would be done to him.

⁵ Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her young women walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her servant woman, and she took it.

⁶ When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby was crying. She took pity on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."

Commented [PW6]: Matthew 2:2 (ESV)

² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

Commented [PW7]: Matthew 2:13 (ESV)

¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

Commented [PW8]: Genesis 45:19-20 (ESV)

¹⁹ And you, Joseph, are commanded to say, 'Do this: take wagons from the land of Egypt for your little ones and for your wives, and bring your father, and come.

²⁰ Have no concern for your goods, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.'"

Commented [PW9]: John 8:34-36 (ESV)

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.

³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever.

³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Commented [PW10]: John 1:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Commented [PW11]: 1 Peter 2:22 (ESV)

²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.

There are certainly more parallels, being a shepherd, an intercessor, etcetera, but let us continue with the Hebrews' text.

The point of verse 23 is the faith of Moses' parents to disobey the king in spite of the possible consequences, because they submitted to a higher authority. We are told to in Scripture to obey the civil authorities (Romans 13:1). Christians should be the best citizens. But when we are told to do something that violates our conscience or the Word of God, civil authority is overruled by God's authority. It will cost us. When Peter and John were ordered by the Sanhedrin not to preach about Jesus, they responded, *"Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, ²⁰ for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard."* Acts 4:19-20 (Also see Acts 5:29) And if the world judges us for obeying God, we will be rewarded by God (Matthew 5:11-12).

Those days are coming. As the Progressive Agenda brainwashes each new generation in our systems of education, it is inevitable that the majority will eventually turn against people of faith, seeing us as backward, ignorant people who must be forced to conform. "As recent leaked [documents confirm](#), and as Rev. [Jim Wallis](#) of [Sojourners eventually admitted](#), wealthy, anti-Christian [foundations](#), following the lead of [billionaire George Soros's Open Society Foundation](#), fund and "rent" Christian ministers as "[mascots](#)" serving as surprising [validators](#) for their [causes](#). The consequent realities include injury to countless people, the Church, the family, nation and the global Church including many martyrs." ¹ With the media on board, the speed at which we are headed in this direction is stunning. We will have to decide if we will obey God or man.

Moses' parents risked their lives to do what was right in honoring God above the order of Pharaoh, and God rewarded them by having Moses' birth mother become his nursemaid in the royal palace (Exodus 2:9). Moses' parents certainly couldn't have foreseen that turn of events. Many of the heroes of faith that follow will not have such a favorable outcome. Whatever the consequences are for obedience, God will bless us for putting Him first.

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.* Hebrews 11:24-25 With his own Hebrew birth mother as his nursemaid, Moses was surely taught about the God of his forefathers. At the same time, he was educated in all the ways of the Egyptian world (Acts 7:22). When he was grown up, he had to make a decision between the two. It's a decision we and our children face. The Egyptian world offered him everything his carnal desires could ask. As a prince, he could have any fleeting pleasure of sin this world offers. The Hebrew world, on the other hand, offered him nothing but hard labor. Yet, faith told him the choice that looked the most difficult was the right choice, the one with true and lasting pleasures (Psalm 16:11).

There are two types of pleasure. There are fleeting pleasures of sin that can certainly be pleasant for the moment. They are not necessarily evil, that is until we make them

Commented [PW12]: Romans 13:1 (ESV)

¹ 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.

Commented [PW13]: Acts 5:29 (ESV)

²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men.

Commented [PW14]: Matthew 5:11-12 (ESV)

¹¹ "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.
¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Commented [PW15]: American Association of Evangelicals, Open Letter, A Call to Repentance and Renewal

Commented [PW16]: Exodus 2:9 (ESV)

⁹ 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.

Commented [PW17]: Acts 7:22 (ESV)

²² And Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was mighty in his words and deeds.

Commented [PW18]: Psalm 16:11 (ESV)

¹¹ You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

the priority of our lives. There are spiritual pleasures of the soul that are richer and enduring. Those spiritual pleasures we experience now are just a foretaste of what is to come for people of faith. Living for carnal pleasures ends in spiritual death and judgment, for it is an abuse of the good gifts of God. The spiritual pleasures only get better with time and are good for you now and forever. It's a choice we are constantly faced with, the fleeting pleasures of sin, or spiritual pleasures that endure. The sinful pleasures are easy to attain and bring a sense of immediate satisfaction. The spiritual pleasures often come through discipline and self-control, and sometimes aren't realized in this life. God has given us a desire to find pleasure. He gives us good things to enjoy (1 Timothy 6:17). Sinful pleasures are when we take the good gifts of God and distort them, put our hope in them, or use them to excess in ways God never intended.

Moses stepped out in faith and chose to live for the eternal. ²⁶ *He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.* Hebrews 11:26 Moses considered the reproach of Christ, which is to be rejected by the world for living for God, to be of greater value than all the wealth of Egypt. We look at the treasures buried with the pharaohs and can see that they had an abundance of wealth. But what good is gold in a famine when there is no food to buy? You can't eat it (Isaiah 2:20). What good is gold when your heart is empty? By faith Moses realized the world's treasures could not compare with reward of God.

That choice cost him a great deal in the physical realm. He tried in his own strength and without God's direction to do what he thought was right. It ended in a murder and having to flee from Pharaoh's wrath (Exodus 2:15). He went from a prince of the most powerful kingdom on earth to being a shepherd working for his father-in-law in the wilderness of Midian (Exodus 3:1). But that was just the beginning of the cost, for it was there God called Moses to return and rescue the people God's way. Then he really faced rejection from complainers, accusers, rebellious people, who even threatened to stone him. These were the very people he was instrumental in delivering from bondage (Numbers 14:10). Following God is not the easiest route. There is a reason Jesus called His way the hard way with a narrow gate (Matthew 7:14).

We should never tell people following Jesus is the easy way (Acts 14:22). It is the best way. It is the way to eternal reward. It is filled with joy. But it is hard, filled with self-denial, and is often heart rending. However, it is more than worth the hardship. Paul wrote, ¹⁸ *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.* Romans 8:18 Ask an older person who has walked that path and they will, without fail, tell you that it was more than worth it. And they haven't even made it to their eternal reward. The reward right now is fellowship with Jesus and the family of God on the journey. The eternal reward is unfathomable.

The end of verse 26 tells us Moses was looking to the reward. He proceeded in faith because His eyes were on the reward; and the reward is Jesus. To know the true God was more important to him than anything the world could offer (John 17:3). "And He walks with me and He talks with me, and He tells me I am His own. And the joy we share, as we tarry there, none other has ever known" ²² (Isaiah 30:20-21). **We are in this**

Commented [PW19]: 1 Timothy 6:17 (ESV)
¹⁷ As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.

Commented [PW20]: Isaiah 2:20 (ESV)
²⁰ In that day mankind will cast away their idols of silver and their idols of gold, which they made for themselves to worship, to the moles and to the bats,

Commented [PW21]: Exodus 2:15 (ESV)
¹⁵ When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh and stayed in the land of Midian. And he sat down by a well.

Commented [PW22]: Exodus 3:1 (ESV)
¹ Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

Commented [PW23]: Numbers 14:10 (ESV)
¹⁰ Then all the congregation said to stone them with stones. But the glory of the LORD appeared at the tent of meeting to all the people of Israel.

Commented [PW24]: Matthew 7:14 (ESV)
¹⁴ For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

Commented [PW25]: Matthew 7:14 (ESV)
¹⁴ For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

Commented [PW26]: Acts 14:22 (ESV)
²² strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.

Commented [PW27]: John 17:3 (ESV)
³ And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

Commented [PW28]: From the hymn When We Walk with the Lord by John H. Sammis

Commented [PW29]: Isaiah 30:20-21 (ESV)
²⁰ And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher.

²¹ And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left.

realm to decide if we want the Giver more than we want His gifts. Moses made up his mind and set His heart on the Giver. It cost Him a great deal, but his faithfulness made him one of the greatest historical figures. Western law is based on what God gave him on Mount Sinai. He delivered a nation, performed miracles, and talked with God face to face (Exodus 33:11). He foreshadowed Christ.

Are your eyes on the reward? Some people think we shouldn't talk about reward, and suggest that reward is the wrong motivation. But the Bible has dozens of references to the reward. Jesus commanded us to lay up our treasures in heaven (Matthew 6:19-20). And when we realize the sum of reward is Jesus himself, why shouldn't we? God told Abraham the He was Abraham's exceeding great reward (Genesis 15:1 KJV). Jesus calls Himself the bridegroom of the redeemed (Matthew 9:15). Could we have a greater reward? He is our motivation, for He wants us to desire Him (Matthew 22:37).

²⁷ By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. Hebrews 11:27 I always struggled with this verse as the Scriptures declare he fled because he feared the wrath of Pharaoh (Exodus 2:14-15). I finally realized the author is speaking of the Exodus. When Moses left Egypt with the nation of Israel, with all their flocks and all the plunder of the Egyptians that they took with them, Moses was no longer in fear of Pharaoh. Why? He had witnessed the power of God and knew in his heart that Pharaoh was no match for God. Pharaoh was worshiped as a god, but he had no power at all compared to Almighty God. Fear not, brothers and sisters in Christ. Whatever we face from the world, Almighty God is our keeper and is watching over us (Psalm 121:3-5).

Moses' faith helped him endure as if he could actually see the invisible God. In one sense he could, for the cloud that went before them, guiding them and protecting them from the sun, was referred to in Scripture as the LORD going before them (Exodus 13:21). But remember, God didn't give Moses that visible confirmation until he went out by faith. It was then the cloud appeared and led them. God is looking for every reason to reward us more richly in eternity, so He gives us opportunities to express faith before giving us the signs that confirm it. Don't ask for signs (Mark 8:12). Ask for faith to act when God leads. Then the signs will follow.

Someone might say, "Well if God spoke to me in a burning bush and did miracles through me, I'd have great faith too." Maybe, but remember the elders of Israel saw the plagues and saw God on Sinai yet they still rebelled and refused to enter the Promised Land. Daily communion with God builds our faith so that when He speaks we know we should act whether the command makes sense or not. Faith grows as we hear the Word of God, but we must be willing to listen and receive. Only then can we endure as seeing Him who is invisible.

²⁸ By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them. Hebrews 11:28 The last plague was what finally broke the will of Pharaoh. It was the death of the firstborn. You see, the son of Pharaoh was believed to be a god, just like his father. God was showing the Egyptians that their gods

Commented [PW30]: Exodus 33:11 (ESV)

¹¹ Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses turned again into the camp, his assistant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent.

Commented [PW31]: Matthew 6:19-20 (ESV)

¹⁹ "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

Commented [PW32]: Genesis 15:1 (KJV)

¹ After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

Commented [PW33]: Matthew 9:15 (ESV)

¹⁵ And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast.

Commented [PW34]: Matthew 22:37 (ESV)

³⁷ And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

Commented [PW35]: Exodus 2:14-15 (ESV)

¹⁴ He answered, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid, and thought, "Surely the thing is known."

¹⁵ When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh and stayed in the land of Midian. And he sat down by a well.

Commented [PW36]: Psalm 121:3-5 (ESV)

³ He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

⁴ Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

⁵ The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand.

Commented [PW37]: Exodus 13:21 (ESV)

²¹ And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night.

Commented [PW38]: Mark 8:12 (ESV)

¹² And he sighed deeply in his spirit and said, "Why does this generation seek a sign? Truly, I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation."

were not gods at all. God told Moses to have the people take a year-old unblemished male sheep or goat and keep it for five days. Then at twilight on a certain day of the month, they were to slaughter the animal and put its blood in the basin at the threshold of the door, and with a hyssop branch, mark the lintel and doorposts (Exodus 12:22). That would mean the blood on the door was each place the Savior would bleed for us, feet, hands, and head.

They were to go inside the door which pictured being in Jesus. They were to consume the entire lamb as a family indoors while the LORD passed over the homes with the doors marked with blood. What a strange command, and yet today we see the symbolism and understand exactly what it all meant. We must be in Christ. He is the door to the sheepfold (John 10:7). It is His blood that keeps us from the second death. He is the Lamb of God slain for the sins of the world (John 1:29). By faith the entire people of Israel obeyed that night and were delivered from the death of the firstborn.

We should also see that the author of Hebrews calls the LORD the Destroyer. He is a God who saves, but also a God who judges. As the author has said earlier, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Hebrews 10:31). God is a Savior to those who will receive Him and a judge to those who will not. We love light or we cling to the darkness (John 3:19). No one will end up in-between. By faith we receive His gracious offer of salvation in Christ and go on in faith, or we reject Him and His goodness and choose to live without Him.

We've seen Christ Jesus again and again in the account of Moses. That is because history is His story. **The One who orchestrates history chose to reveal His Son through it.** Faith isn't really blind. We learn it through the Word and the application of the Word. It grows in us as we walk with Him. He opens our eyes to the evidence and even at times lets us physically see the evidence of our faith.

These few verses ask us if we are willing to follow the pattern of Moses. Are we willing to leave the fleeting pleasures of sin and live a life of faith regardless of the physical cost, because we are looking to the reward? Are we living for this world or eternity with Jesus? Is Jesus your exceeding great reward, or have you settled for far less? Are you by faith seeking the first and foremost the greatest reward of all, our Creator, Jesus?

Questions

- 1 List some of the parallels of Moses and Jesus?
- 2 Why are there so many?
- 3 When should we disobey civil authority?
- 4 What was the first big choice Moses had to make?
- 5 What are the two kinds of pleasures?
- 6 What is our exceeding great reward?
- 7 How do we obtain it in part now?
- 8 Why did Moses no longer fear Pharaoh?
- 9 What did Passover foreshadow?
- 10 What are these verses asking us?

Commented [PW39]: Exodus 12:22 (ESV)

²² Take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and touch the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. None of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning.

Commented [PW40]: John 10:7 (ESV)

⁷ So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.

Commented [PW41]: John 1:29 (ESV)

²⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

Commented [PW42]: Hebrews 10:31 (ESV)

³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Commented [PW43]: John 3:19 (ESV)

¹⁹ And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.