

Image: Araminta (ca 1820). Harriet Tubman's story of the underground railroad. "Moses"

Need: Don't you just love stories like that. Where people, at great personal risk, help others overcome injustice. Schindler's List, Power of One...

Context: Moses has been held up as an example before in **ch. 3:1-6**. He was, for the Jews of this time, THE guy. They had no land and no monarchy...only the Law. Here, he's going to hold up Moses as an example, not of someone who found life in the Law, but as someone who found life in faith. Moses lives in the present in light of the future...and God is not only going to bless him, but also bless others through him because of that faith.

Preview: I want to point out some things about Moses. How he lived, was blessed, and blessed others. Moses was marked by a keen awareness of the presence and power of the unseen God.

- I. The character of Moses' faith was future focused
 - A. Moses walked by faith in the here and now
 1. His faith began with his parents (**v. 23**)
 - a. They believed that he was no ordinary child – "**Beautiful**"
 - i. *Calvin* thought the sense was that Moses had some kind of mark
 - ii. *Josephus* and Jewish trad: God visited Moses' parents (*Amram and Jochebed*)
 - b. So they defied Pharaoh's edict
 - i. See **Exodus 1:22** – the ordering of the deaths of Jewish boys
 - ii. They feared God more than Pharaoh – not that they weren't afraid of what could happen but their fear was eclipsed by fear of not obeying God.
 2. His faith led him to suffering (**v. 24-26**)
 - a. He chose to give up the wealth of Egypt – *most powerful nation on the planet* (**v. 24**).
 - i. "**When he grew up**" – It was his choice, made in maturity. He didn't make it under external compulsion (**Ex. 2:11**).
 - ii. In casting his lot with the Israelites he was refusing to identify himself with Pharaoh's daughter. *This looked foolish to world.*
 - b. In identifying himself with Israel he was choosing to suffer (**v. 25**).
 - i. Not neutral decision. *Didn't take him to zero, but into negative num = suffering.*
 - ii. Note that there was nothing inherently wrong with being the son of Pharaoh's daughter. That kind of influence could have been very beneficial in helping God's people. The "**sin**" in view is that this isn't what God wanted. God called him to do otherwise. To do anything else would have been sin. Even if he became Pharaoh, ultimately dishonorable and fleeting bc it wasn't God's chosen way.
 - iii. In all this he regarded it better to suffer by faith than to have all the riches of the world (**v. 26**) – *weighed it on scales.*
 01. "**Disgrace of Christ**" – he suffered the way Messiah would, choosing to identify with the weak (*us*) (**cf, Phil. 2:5-8; Hb. 12:1-2; Acts 7:37**).
 02. His eyes weren't fixed on here and now, but future. "**Fixed**": *artist intently focuses on his subject. He had LASIK* (**cf, Paul in Phil. 3:7ff; Rom. 8:18**).
 03. This is opposite of what Hebrew Christians were being tempted with. They were being tempted NOT to suffer for Christ's sake. Note there is no mention of the Law here bc this is before Law. He is suffering for something more.
 3. His faith led him to persevere in the mission God had for him (**v. 27**)
 - a. He ultimately fled in faith, not fear.
 - i. This is not contrary to **Ex. 2:14** but helps explain it. The boldness of his actions is greater than the fear he had (**cf v. 23**).
 - ii. He was afraid, but that's not why he left. Fear of God greater than fear of Pharaoh.
 - b. Again, note that it is his vision of the unseen God that was the source of his faith.
 4. His faith led him to obey in instituting the Passover (**v. 28**).
 - a. Note the context and explanation of **Passover in Exodus 12** – deliverance thru blood.
 - b. He had never seen this and yet he obeyed in faith. Again, seeing the unseeable...visualizing the invisible.

- B. All of these demanded that he see with the eyes of faith what couldn't be seen.
 - 1. To live in the present in the light of the future.
 - 2. *Recap the 4* and the sections on seeing the unseeable. He bought into God sight unseen (*not like buying property off plans*). Trust in God's character.

(Products of his faith)

- II. As a result, Moses was blessed and was a blessing
 - A. Moses was blessed in the future.
 - 1. He inherited something far greater than Pharaoh's throne: the reward of God.
 - 2. His faith was vindicated. We don't know with certainty the name of Pharaoh in question, but all know Moses. He is a hero of faith, that's why he's in chapter 11 (cf **Heb. 3:1-6**).
 - B. Moses was also a blessing in the present.
 - 1. He was used to accomplish the grand plan of God in rescuing a million plus people from the hands of the injustice of slavery. God channeled His blessing of deliverance and justice through Moses' faith, resulting in good to them.
 - 2. He was a contagious conduit of faith like *Abe* was (**Gen. 12**), *XC (Calvary)*, and *us...*

(that's where this hits home with us)

- III. Our faith is to have same result. We are to be contagious conduits of faith's blessings in world.
 - A. Our faith has definitely given us a future blessing that gives everything that happens to us a context. We can rest in the ultimate victory of faith because of God's promises.
 - B. But our faith is also to have an impact in the here and now. That's why we're still here. That the world could see the hand of God through the Body of Christ, His people. That means that as we respond in faith to God's plan, trusting Him regardless of the circumstances, we leave the mark of God's blessing in our wake. We are transformed for the future in the here and now so we can be a blessing to the world around us. That has some implications.
 - 1. First, our faith is personal but it is never private. Our faith spills over onto others in the form of blessing (cf **v. 28** – *Moses' faith led to inaction of a plan that delivered the people from death*). And so we...living by faith in future grace...share hope, justice, and help with the world. Trusting God enough to give of our time, talents, and resources.
 - 2. Second, our faith is to be contagious. Our faith is to cause others' faith to be strengthened. That's the point of **chapter 11**. He has called them to endure in faith as a community, being encouraged by the faith of those he is listing in this chapter. Incidentally, *Moses' faith was caught by the Israelites* in the next verse (**v. 29**).

Conc.: Moses' life was marked by an acute awareness of the presence and power of the unseen God. He is an example of one who endured in faith because he saw something bigger in the future. That faith was rewarded by God in the future but it also was used to bless others in the present. Our call is also to endure in faith...acting as conduits of the blessings that faith brings. Is it costly. Yes. Risky. Sometimes. Worth it. You bet. So let's live in faith...letting the blessing of God spill over into the lives of those around us, encouraging one another to continue in faith.

Heb. 11:23 ¶ By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

Heb. 11:24 ¶ By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.

Heb. 11:25 He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time.

Heb. 11:26 He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

Heb. 11:27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.

Heb. 11:28 By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.

Heb. 11:29 ¶ By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.

Ex. 1:22 Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: "Every boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live."

Ex. 2:11 One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people.

Phil. 2:5-8 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross!

Heb. 12:1-2 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Acts 7:37 "This is that Moses who told the Israelites, 'God will send you a prophet like me from your own people.'

Phil. 3:7-8 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ

Rom. 8:18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

Ex. 2:14-15 The man said, "Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid and thought, "What I did must have become known." When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian, where he sat down by a well.

Heb. 3:2 He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house.

Heb. 3:5 Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house...