

Unworldly Moses

Introduction

We can't be devoted to the world and to God. James 4:4 says *You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.*

Scripture clearly teaches us that the world was originally created by God to reflect His glory. But led by sinful mankind, the world is now currently enslaved and in rebellion against God and opposed to Him. At the heart of worldly thinking is the enthronement of material things, people, pleasure and property – as objects of worship in the place of God. The nature of sin is to displace our Creator with created things. Which is idolatry. We see worldliness everywhere in our nation.

However God still loved the world so much that He gave His only son to die for the people in it. He defeated the prince of this world on the cross. He empowers His people to go into the world and be salt and light, but we are not to be of it. The message: **to live for God not the world**, a message that God is committed to transforming people's lives.

We need to love people enough to want to see them transformed in Christ and we must not love this world and its ideology. 1 John 2:15-17 *Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. ¹⁶ For everything in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives for ever.*

One of the clearest examples of a man in the Bible rejecting the world and its idolatrous ideology is Moses. This particular aspect of his life is found in Hebrews chapter 11. His attitudes and personal decisions are of enormous value to Christian men and women living in our prosperous Western culture today. Moses enjoyed a privileged and luxurious lifestyle. **But** he walked away from the best the world can offer to join God's people leave Egypt out of slavery. Moses was enabled by his faith to give up this luxurious lifestyle and endure hardships and suffering. This unworldly faith is commended to all Christians today.

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Hebrews 11:24 *By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.* Acts 7:23-24 *When Moses was forty years old, he decided to visit his own people, the Israelites. ²⁴ He saw one of them being ill-treated by an Egyptian, so he went to his defense and avenged him by killing the Egyptian.* In starting to visit his own people, Moses consciously choose to identify with them, rather than Pharaoh's household and the Egyptian ruling classes and *refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.* Moses refused what most people could only ever dream of and was willing to surrender his status and comfort, everything. The surrender of status was by faith. It was extremely costly for him!

Hebrews 11:25 *He chose to be ill-treated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.* The writer to the Hebrews does not clarify what pleasures of sin he is referring to, but the corruption of power, idolatry and immorality were obvious temptations for Egyptian royalty. For Moses, to reject what he knew God wanted of him and to retain his status would have been sin.

Moses rejected idolatry. To remain in Pharaoh's palace meant joining in with the pluralistic idolatry of Egyptian religions. Moses could not serve God and the pagan practices of the day. Immorality would totally surround him. Egyptian hedonism was legendary. Today we are surrounded by hedonism. Moses lifestyle encourages each of us to let go of sin.

Moses chose to be ill treated with God's people. He didn't want the ill treatment he wanted to join the people. For Christians today we don't want the ill treatment but we do want people to know what we stand for as we identify with God's people.

Hebrews 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.* The treasures of Egypt are famous.

This cost Moses and this meant being disgraced from the Egyptians.

For the sake of Christ is literally translated **the reproach of the Anointed**. It does not mean that Moses knew Christ as we Christians know Him today. The **anointed** for whom Moses suffered was the chosen people of God.

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Moses believed that it was more important in the long run to have suffered disgrace for God's people than to possess the treasures of Pharaoh. Moses knew the treasures of Egypt could be stolen away but the rewards and honour for suffering disgrace for the people of God would last into eternity.

Moses saw with eyes of faith into the future God had prepared for those that love Him *because he was looking ahead to his reward*. The writer to the Hebrews said in verse 1 of chapter 11 that *faith is being sure of what we hope for*. Moses didn't know about the Kingdom of God but he knew there would be a future reward and valued God's approval more than trinkets from Egypt.

By faith Moses endured hardships. Hebrews 11:27 *By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible*. Moses trusted God for his future. It was 40 years before God revealed himself to Moses on mount Horeb and instructed him on how to deliver Israel from Egypt. Being a Christian sometimes means waiting for God to reveal opportunities for service. We often don't know what to do next. But we need to wait until God makes it clear in His time.

Moses wasn't afraid of the king's anger. He was afraid when he first murdered the Egyptian and fled. But Moses's trust in God removed the fear so that he would return to Egypt. Faith in God enables men to do great things for Him **by removing fear**. Hudson Taylor for example final decision to go to China with the gospel was based upon trust in God. He wrote about his encounter with God on the 25th of June, 1865. *I wandered out on the sands, in great spiritual agony, and there the Lord conquered my unbelief, and I surrendered myself to His service. I told him that all the responsibility of the issues and consequences must rest in Him, that as His servant, it was mine to obey and follow Him – His to direct, to care and to guide me*. Hudson Taylor trusted God without physically seeing Him.

Faith is not only being sure of the future we hope for, but also of being certain of those things we can't see because God has promised them.

Christians today must be the same. In every situation we see that God is right here with us. When we face doing what is right over popular in our workplace or with our friends or family. When God calls us to do something *as His*

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servant, it was mine to obey and follow Him

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

When Pharaoh repeatedly rejected the Lord's command to let Israel leave Egypt, God issued this ultimatum: unless Pharaoh released Israel God would kill the firstborn of every Egyptian family.

But God also provided a means of surviving His judgement. He told Moses to get a flawless male lamb for every family with enough for everyone to eat. Each family would care for its own lamb for four days until the night of the Passover. On the night, the lambs were to be slaughtered and the blood of the lambs sprinkled around the doors of their houses, indicating that death had already occurred in those houses. Later that night, the Lord would pass through Egypt destroying all firstborn sons except where there had been the death of a lamb in the place of a son. The blood of the substitutionary lamb would satisfy the Lord and he would pass over that house leaving the Hebrew boys alive.

Pharaoh remained stubborn and judgement followed as promised. Pharaoh then let the people of Israel go. It was the beginning of a new life for Israel, redeemed by the blood of the Passover lamb a day to be celebrated forever. The meat of the sacrifice and the unleavened bread were to sustain God's people for their journey.

The New Testament clarifies how this momentous deliverance points to the redeeming death of Jesus Christ. At the time Passover lambs were sacrificed in the Temple in Jerusalem, Jesus the true Passover lamb was being sacrificed on the cross. His blood satisfied the Lord and diverts the wrath we deserve away from all who paint His blood on our lives. He bore the death penalty so that we might be spared, leaving the slavery imposed by Satan behind and we walk on our journey into the promised kingdom of God. The death of Jesus sustains us throughout our journey and we celebrate our deliverance with a meal, the Lord's Supper, which commemorates our Passover deliverance at the cross.

Moses did exactly what God had said because He knew he would judge sin.

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God had already brought many other plagues upon Egypt. God spoke clearly, just as He has spoken clearly about the coming Judgement and hell. Christians today must believe that there is a judgement coming. We are not called to be Politically correct. We are called to be Biblically correct. BC not PC!

Moses believed that the death of the lamb, was a penalty for sin. It was substitutionary, and it completely satisfied God's justice. 2 Corinthians 5:19 *that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.* God Himself became flesh in the person of Jesus. Jesus took upon Himself the sins of the world. God accepted our penalty in Christ's death on the cross.

Jesus went to the cross to suffer God's wrath directed at us. Isaiah 53:3-5 *But he was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by His wounds we are healed. ⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

Moses believed what God had said and he had to persuade others to believe too. He persuaded the people to nurture and sacrifice their own lambs. We need to persuade people of the day of judgement yet to come. We need to persuade families, friends to rely on our Passover, Jesus Christ for deliverance.

Moses surrendered the pleasures and treasures of this world in order to join the people of God on their journey. He endured opposition because he saw what the people of this world could not see; this world is subject to an invisible God. He prepared for the Judgement of God by persuading others to rely upon, the sacrificial lamb.

Personal Study Questions

✚ What status, pleasures and treasures do you feel you may need to

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surrender today?

- ✚ Are you sure of Hebrews 11: 1 *Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.* What do you find hard to be sure of?