

Faith's Choice Hebrews 11:23-26

INTRODUCTION

For this morning I invite you to open your Bibles to Hebrews 11:23-26. Hebrews 11 provides us with a list of some of God's past heroes. For the last several years, we have turned to this great chapter of God's word to learn from those who we could call "**Heaven's Heroes.**" We have been learning what a life of faith means and looks like. So far, we have looked at Abel, Noah & Abraham.

For this morning, we turn our attention to **Moses. Life is made up of decisions.** Some are simple and unimportant, and some are complex and extremely important. Many are made almost unconsciously, whereas others we think about carefully for a long time. Some decisions are made by default. **When we put off deciding, a decision is made for us.** But it is still our decision, because we decide to put it off. Here's a harsh reality: **the course and the quality of our lives are determined much more by our decisions than by our circumstances.**

In these verses we are introduced to faith's choice. Our text tells us about two good choices that greatly affected world history. The first choice was relatively routine at the time. Two slaves in ancient Egypt chose to defy the king's edict to kill all male Hebrew babies by hiding their son. That son turned out to be Moses, the great deliverer of his people. The second choice was that of Moses himself, and it was more difficult. He chose to give up his position of influence and wealth in the Egyptian court in order to side with the enslaved people of God. Both choices were motivated by faith and their lessons have eternal consequences for us.

Here's my sermon's main point: ***faith-driven obedience to the Lord may result in short-term suffering but will yield eternal blessings.***

I. By faith, Moses' parents chose to _____ God and suffered _____ but their choice yielded _____ blessings (11:23)

Moses' parents are not named in Hebrews or in the original biblical account in Exodus 2. Exodus 6:20 names Amram as the father and Jochebed as the mother of Moses and Aaron, his older brother by three years. The oldest child in the family was a sister, Miriam.

The Jews had gone from the privileged position they enjoyed in Egypt under Joseph to the despised position as hard labor slaves. Because of his fear that the Jews were multiplying too rapidly, Pharaoh had issued the command to throw all newborn Jewish boys into the Nile River.

A. By faith, Moses' parents _____ to obey God and suffered _____

Verse 23 says, "***they were not afraid of the king's edict.***" So why did they hide their son if they were not afraid? Why not just take him out in public view, if they were trusting in God? Faith is not opposed to using prudence. Trusting God does not mean taking reckless chances. **While they did not fear the king's edict in the sense that they defied it, they no doubt did fear not only for the life of their baby boy, but for all their lives.** If Pharaoh's guards had caught them, they would have executed the entire family for insubordination to the king. So their "***by faith***" choice to hide their son exposed the entire family to the risk of death.

B. By faith, Moses' parents _____ to obey God resulting in _____ blessings

II. By faith, Moses' _____ to obey God resulted in _____ suffering but yielded _____ blessings
(11:24-26)

A. Moses' _____ to obey God by faith resulted in _____ suffering

1. Moses chose to suffer the _____ of _____ and _____ from his _____ family.

2. Moses _____ to suffer the _____ of the world's honors, pleasures, and wealth.

3. Moses _____ to suffer the world's _____.

B. Moses' _____ to obey God by faith resulted in _____ blessings.

1. He chose the _____ of the company of God's people.

2. He chose the _____ of the greater riches in Christ.

3. He chose the _____ of the eternal reward in heaven.

CONCLUSION

What can we take with us this morning?

- **Faith-driven obedience to the Lord may result in short-term suffering but will yield eternal blessings.**
- **Parents: your walk of faith with the Lord _____.**

Moses' parents obeyed God by faith (11:23). The author states that faith was at the heart of this important decision. **God often works through the faith of unknown parents or grandparents to raise up an unusually gifted leader to accomplish great things for God.** Except for their well-known son, this couple would have lived in obscurity as lowly slaves. But God used their courageous faith in a mighty way. Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth, were childless, elderly, but faithful people. God used them to bear John the Baptist and to rear him to be bold in faith. Mary was an obscure Jewish girl who was willing to believe God's word, even though it meant ridicule for her to conceive a son without a husband. God used her to bring forth the Savior.

Many of us have heard of Charles Spurgeon...

Spurgeon was the most phenomenal pastor of the 19th century. Thousands packed his church each week. They measured attendance by how many were turned away! Thousands came to faith in Christ under his preaching. Hundreds of pastors were trained at his pastor's college. Orphans were cared for at his orphanages. He has more books in print by volume than any other author in history, and God still uses them greatly.

But what about John Spurgeon? He was Charles' father. He was a faithful pastor in a small English town. If he had not been the father of a famous son, John Spurgeon would be unknown in history. There have been thousands of godly, faithful pastors like him, but only a few like his son. The Lord calls us to be as faithful as John Spurgeon and only He decides whether to use you, me...us as He used Charles Spurgeon.

Here are two truths to consider as we close:

- **For the majority of those who know the Lord, faithfully serving Him in _____ is no less important than serving Him in the _____.**
- **Child of God: your _____ to the Lord is fueled by _____ in Him, who keeps His word and whose word is worth obeying.**