



Moses

Hebrews 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.”*

There was a time early on in my walk with God where I thought David and Moses were stupid men. Yet, (in time (I have learned how stupid I have been in my walk. I have said dumb things. I have literally done ridiculously dumb actions that hurt the cause of Christ. I don’t look at Moses and David as stupid men anymore. Why? It is because I am one of them. Silly people that think they knew better than other silly people. The only one not silly in Christianity is God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Yet, I would still call the Moses story a shallow one.

The great Moses is not really the point of the story. I don’t mean that Moses is shallow or insignificant. No, instead, I can see him as a means to get stubborn people to the promised land. However, Moses’ faith pushed a stiff-necked people across the wilderness. This desert story is about many things. Is it more about God? Is it more about the Israelites? I just feel that Moses slightly regressed as his life story played out. I might say he got dumber and smarter all at the same time.

I don’t want to diminish the character of Moses. He is a great Saint. Very few people would survive what he went through. He had it tough. Moses was not an Egyptian. In some ways he was not even a Hebrew. He is the in-between leader. He barely knew God. This man learned

about God on the fly. Moses learned about the Lord in a burning bush. He experienced God splitting the sea; a rock for water; and manna from heaven. Moses saw it all as it happened in real time. In-fact God threatened to kill Moses over circumcision. Moses even told God he wanted out but God kept him in. this man had his struggles. Yet, Paul considers Moses to be a man of great faith.

What kind of faith did Moses have? The faith to do what God wanted regardless if it made sense. God told Moses to go to Pharaoh even though it was dangerous to do so. Reluctantly Moses went. This man became bolder and bolder as each plague happened. The Lord guided Moses to the Red Sea. A place that they could not turn back from because Pharaoh was barreling down upon them. Yet, Moses did not panic. God tells Moses that He will use the Israelites as bait to draw Pharaoh to them. Yet, Moses did what was asked. This is a great verse below.

Exodus 14:13 *“Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again.”*

I am sure that Moses wanted to panic. There are moments when he had spirited dialogue with God. What makes Moses' faith great? It is his devotion to God. He listened to God. Moses never walked away from his God. Of course, he had questions and concerns! Who wouldn't in the desert! Yet, by faith, Moses did what needed to be done. Even after God told him he would not enter the promised land Moses promoted God. The end of Deuteronomy is a reminder of all that the Lord had done for them. By faith Moses trusted in God even while being punished.

David pouted about his losses and I don't think had the faith of Moses. Thomas doubted. Even Paul needed convincing on the Damascus Road. Peter denied Jesus. Yet, Moses went where God asked him. Let's look at the words Paul wrote about Moses in Hebrews 11.

Verse 24-25 *“By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. 25 He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.”* Moses had options. He could have remained an Egyptian. Some believe he could have ruled one day. Yet, even Moses tried to walk away from leading the Hebrews. This is a man who never struggled with his faith. Instead, we see a struggle (of confidence) that he surrendered to God. By faith he was unsure of his own abilities but never doubted God's.

Verse 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 point of the Moses story is getting the people to the promised land. This path went through the reeds of the Nile. It hid from death and plagues. This path headed to the Sea. It crossed through the water and followed pillars of fire and smoke. Everything Moses did was to get through to the promises of God. Look at verse 27 *“By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.*

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. It is interesting that Aaron is older than Moses. By tradition, the older brother was the leader and was set to gain the inheritance of the family. Yet, Moses (the younger) was used mightily of God. Aaron and their sister Miriam were as well. Still, the focus was on Moses. Why? I believe Paul knew. The faith of Moses was greater than many. Most of what Moses was asked to do, by God, he could not see. Into the desert? Across

the sea? Water from a rock? Manna from the sky? Even the coming of the spirit of death in Egypt. By faith he asked the Israelites to paint the door posts.

I have a certain amount of faith. When my wife got cancer, I cried out in faith. God did deliver her from death. I have survived car accidents. There have been so many blessings in my life. Why do I have strong faith? Is it because of blessings or curses? I have faith based on far more blessings than curses. Yet, Moses went through it all. Within the trials was his faith standing tall. Would I have that kind of faith? Paul chose Moses as a man of faith because he was! How many perils did Paul endure? Was it the faith of Moses that inspired him? I believe it was. We are blessed to have great examples of stellar faith in Moses and Paul. Although I am grateful, I have not had to endure 40 years in the desert. Yet, if it comes my way, I hope I lean on God and the great faith of Moses.