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# Words of Truth

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## Hebrews 11:24-27

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*“By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible” (Hebrews 11:24-27).*

The original account that is referenced in our current study can be found in the book of Exodus (Exodus 2:10-25). A great summary, that includes a few details not even found in the original account was preached by Stephen. Notice what Stephen stated: *“And when he was cast out, Pharaoh's daughter took him up, and nourished him for her own son. And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds. And when he was full forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren the children of Israel. And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended him, and avenged him that was oppressed, and smote the Egyptian: For he supposed his brethren would have understood how that God by his hand would deliver them: but they understood not. And the next day he shewed himself unto them as they strove, and would have set them at one again, saying, Sirs, ye are brethren; why do ye wrong one to another? But he that did his neighbour wrong thrust him away, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge over us? Wilt thou kill me, as thou diddest the Egyptian yesterday? Then fled Moses at this saying, and was a stranger in the land of Madian, where he begat two sons” (Acts 7:21-29).*

Moses made a decision. He chose to suffer rather than enjoy the carnal pleasures that came with being in Pharaoh's house. Even without being immersed in the Hebrew culture, Moses understood that it was/is better to be with God than with the world (Psalms 84:1-12). Remember, no one at that point in time had the knowledge of the hope we have in Jesus Christ (I Peter 1:1-12). So, his decision is not even comparable today. We have a far greater hope in Christ than anything Moses had to have hope in (II Corinthians 4:13-5:1). What we know was a mystery to those who lived before and during the Law of Moses, the prophets, and the Psalms (Romans 16:25-27, I Corinthians 2:6-10, II Corinthians 3:1-18, and Ephesians 3:1-11). Having said that, Moses did know that there is a greater reward from God than from man (Psalms 19:7-11 and Proverbs 11:18). He somehow knew and had believed that God is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6).

Throughout the New Testament we read that the faithful who suffer for the cause of our Lord will be rewarded in eternity (Matthew 5:10-12, Luke 6:20-23, Acts 14:22, Romans 8:17-39, II Timothy 2:9-12, I Peter 4:13-19, and Revelation 2:8-11). We know this because we can read the Scriptures just cited as well as others that prove it. Let me repeat something though. This information was not revealed at the time Moses was alive. As you have read in earlier references in this article, this information was a mystery. We live under the time of the *“better hope”* (Hebrews 7:19). We live in the time of the *“better covenant, which was established upon better promises”* (Hebrews 8:6). Yet, Moses knew the principle without even having the revelation to prove it. Later in this chapter, this is written: *“And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect”* (Hebrews 11:39-40). If Moses was so motivated by a lesser hope, how much the more should we be motivated by the greatest hope?

Think about treasures for a moment. A Psalmist wrote: *“A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked”* (Psalms 37:16). Jeremiah taught: *“Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD”* (Jeremiah 9:23-24). Material wealth does bring some worldly advantages (Proverbs 10:15, Proverbs 19:4, Ecclesiastes 7:12, etc.). Yet, for those who trust in such wealth rather than in God, there is a rude awakening coming to them (Psalms 49:6-14, Luke 12:13-21, and Luke 16:19-31).

We should also consider the idea of enjoying the pleasures of sin for a season. By such a statement we cannot deny that sin can be pleasurable. If sin were not pleasurable, it would not be so hard for people to turn away from it. However, those who are wise understand that sin is not fulfilling (James 5:5). Sin is but for a moment. Anything carnal is temporary (Job 20:5, Psalms 39:6, II Peter 3:9-14, and I John 2:15-17). Yet, sin occurs because people have desires they want to fulfill (James 1:13-16). Most just cannot reason enough to understand that the end reward of sin is not worth the temporary pleasure (Romans 6:23). Even without the extent of the teaching we have available to us now, Moses was able to reason through this and come to the right conclusion.

Moses decided, by faith, to forsake Egypt and all that was to be had there if he were to remain. Though Moses did not see God (John 1:18), he endured as though he had (cf. II Corinthians 5:7). Like his parents, fear did not prevent him from acting upon his faith (Hebrews 11:23). We considered how that is not common in our previous article. That does not mean Moses didn't have any fear (Exodus 2:14-15). It is wise to fear the king (Proverbs 24:21). What is not wise is to fear any man more than we fear God (Isaiah 51:7 and Matthew 10:28). By faith, we too should endure without fear as Moses did.