



“The Faith of Abraham” (Hebrews 11:24-28, 2012)

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I. THE REALIZATION HE CAME TO (v.24)

v.24 Moses knew that Egypt was not his heritage (Read Ex.1:6-2:10). Despite all the earthly advantages of growing up in Pharaoh’s household, Moses knew he was not really of the family of Pharaoh, but rather of the family of faith (Read again Heb.11:23).

- Do you come from a heritage of faith? If not, why don’t you start one (today, right now)? Abraham started a heritage of faith for his family when he left Ur of the Chaldeans. One of my favorite characters in the Bible who started a heritage of faith for her family is Rahab. Right after the first of the year we will be studying the life of Rahab (Heb.11:31). Rahab, in her heritage of faith, became the great grandmother of King David (Matthew 1:5-6).

How old was Moses when he came to this realization? Deut. 34:7 tells us that Moses died at 120 years old. We know he spent 40 years on the backside of the desert, and 40 years wandering in the wilderness with the people of Israel. So he had to have been about 40 years old.

II. THE CHOICES HE MADE (vv.25-26)

A. To Sacrifice the Riches Of Egypt

- He could have had reward in Egypt, and that reward was quite handsome. He was a part of Egypt’s nineteenth dynasty, and for Moses that meant immense prestige and wealth, not to mention the satisfying of ungodly desires. Moses came to a point in his life where he made a choice between living for “the pleasures of sin for a short time” or the eternal values of heaven forever. Moses gave up fame, riches, and sinful pleasure. He saw the temporal in light of the eternal, and he made a very wise decision.
- Mark 8:36 What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?

B. To Suffer With The People Of God

- Moses chose not only to give up the riches and pleasures of Egypt, but he chose to identify himself with a group of people that brought him suffering as a result (See I Peter 4:14-16; John 15:18-19).

- Rom.8:18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worthy to be compared with the glory that will be revealed in us.

III. THE PERSEVERANCE HE SUSTAINED (v.27)

A. Great Failure

- Read Ex.2:11-14. Moses attempted to accomplish the will of God in the power of the flesh. Acts 7:22 tells us that Moses was a man “powerful in speech and action.” But his power and action here only made him a murderer. Let that thought really sink in for a moment – Moses was a murderer! Note: If Peter had not been so groggy from sleep, he too would have become a murderer when he tried to defend the Lord in The Garden of Gethsemane, cutting off Malchus’ ear. David, after years of walking with the Lord, committed adultery with Bathsheba, then had her husband killed in battle in order to have Bathsheba as his wife.

B. Tremendous Frustration/Disappointment

- He didn’t fear the king’s edict, which means he did not leave Egypt out of fear. This is reinforced when we look at Exodus 2:15-17. Moses was not a man running as a result of fear. Moses was running as a result of frustration. He did not understand his “brothers” response when he defended them, and when he tried to reconcile them (See Acts7:25-29; Ex.2:15-22). The name of Moses first child is significant (Ex. 2:22). Moses feels like a failure. Do you know why he feels this way? He was a failure. But the backside of the desert was just what he needed for his failure, because here in this desert place God would perform some painful purging in the life of Moses.

C. Forty Years Of “Flesh Purging”

- Gal.5: 19 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.
- Why did it take forty years? Because Moses’ flesh was extremely strong in his life; Moses was accustomed to giving orders, not taking them. Moses was “powerful in speech and action.”
- So Moses gets married and settles down in the desert, working for his father-in-law. As time passed, he must have shed tears many times over his failure. He no doubt felt that God was through with him, that because of his failure he had forfeited God’s plan for his life. Then suddenly out of nowhere, after forty years, God comes calling. Note Numbers 12:3. See Exodus 3:1- 4:13. Moses is a very a broken, humble man, he is also a man satisfied to simply remain where he is in life. I think he was afraid that if He responds to God’s renewed call, he may fail all over again. And guess what? He did! See Ex.4:24-26. This is amazing! What could be so serious that God was going to kill Moses? Moses was well aware of his

responsibility as a husband and father in regard to circumcising his children. God intended that Moses, now a humbled man, would allow that humility to motivate him to be a strong leader, and that leadership must begin in his home.

D. Family Failure

- Any parents here who feel like failures? After being saved less than one year, as a twenty year old Christian college student, I picked up a book in the campus bookstore called “Withhold not Correction.” It was my desire, and firm belief, that I would one day marry a Christian girl, and I would be the best Christian husband and father the world had ever seen. Five things ruined my dreams – my wife, and four children! What I mean by that is simply the discovery that there is only one perfect husband (other than Christ), and that is a man who has never been married. And there is only one perfect parent (other than God), and that is the person who has never had children.
- I failed with my children early on by not taking the leadership role in a family devotional time. I have failed in not always letting the Holy Spirit control my temper. I am a very passionate person, and there have been times when that passion has been influenced by my flesh. I have failed by allowing certain freedoms I have in Christ to be indulged by my sinful nature, and by doing so, increasing the tendency of fleshly responses already fueled by a passionate personality. I stand before you today, a failure. I so identify with Moses (and with King David, who was a miserable failure as a parent; see notes on II Samuel 13-15).
- Note: Despite Moses’ failure, God still uses him. It was now his humility that kept him pointed in the right direction.

E. Patience/Discovery Of God’s Plan For Deliverance

- When Moses came back to Egypt 40 years later, he had to wait on God to bring about the deliverance. And please note that things got worse before they got better (see Ex.4:29-31; 5:1-13; 6:1-12). Moses had to be patient, wait on God and persevere in faith despite the Israelites complaining and continued hardships. Finally, God instructs Moses regarding Passover. See Exodus 12:1-3, 6-7, 13-14. It was through the sacrifice of the lamb and its blood applied that deliverance finally came. Deliverance did not come when God turned Moses’ staff into a snake, nor when his snake gobbled up the magician’s snakes. It did not come after the plagues of blood, frogs, gnats, flies, livestock, boils, hail, locusts, or darkness. It came through the Passover Lamb!
- The only place we will find the power to deliver people from the bondage of sin/this world (Egypt) is at the cross, where the Lamb of God was slain. His blood must be applied personally, and if I will apply his blood to my life, I can not only obtain salvation, but deliverance from the past, and hope for the future!

F. Wandering In The Wilderness For Forty Years

- This wandering was not a result of Moses’ failure, but rather the failure of the people he was called to lead. Having been purged of flesh and pride, humbled

more than any other living soul in his day, and now delivered from the bondage of Egypt through the sacrifice and shed blood of the lamb, Moses was now tested greatly by the very people who had been delivered with him. For the most part, Moses was a godly leader. But near the end of the wilderness wandering, this very humble man lost his temper with the congregation, and it kept him from going into the Promised Land (see Numbers 20:2-12).

- While I know that this was an illustration that Law can never lead us to the Land of Promise, I also know that there is another very practical lesson here, and it simply this: Even after being humbled, delivered, used greatly by God, and having walked with God for years in the wilderness of this present world, I can still fail. And that failure may cost me blessings that God intended, but I forfeited through an act of the flesh.
- Note: Moses kept the Passover and sprinkling of blood, not just once, but every year. And every time he did he was reminded of his own failure, of the flesh that needed to be purged from his life, and also of the limitless love, grace and mercy of a God who never gave up on him...
- Proverbs 24:16 ...though a righteous man falls seven times, he rises again...
- Matthew 12:20 A bruised reed he will not break, and a **smoldering** wick he will not snuff out, till he leads justice to victory (from Isaiah 42).

CONCLUSION

- God has a special gift for some today – forgiveness from the past, a fresh start, grace, mercy, and joy unspeakable...