

What Moses Saw

Introduction. No Old Testament character, except Abraham, ranked higher in popular Jewish estimation than Moses. He was the great lawgiver, and the law was central to Jewish life. Moses is highly honored in the New Testament, and the author of Hebrews has an appreciation for the greatness of Moses which he shows by recounting three instances of his faith in 11:24-26. Investigating these decisions and applying the lessons will lead to godliness.

I. ***By Faith Moses Saw The Reality Of Pleasure***

- A. Moses did not deny the enticing nature of unlawful pleasures, but saw that they were fleeting (Hebrews 11:24-25).
 - 1. The situation of Moses in Egypt, the wealthiest, most cultured and advanced society of that day, would have been highly desirable. His life would have been full of advantage and wealth (Acts 7:21-22).
 - 2. In Acts 7:23-25, it took a high quality of faith to make the decision to not be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. Napoleon believed there is a crisis in every battle, a period of a few minutes on which the outcome depends. To take advantage of this period is victory, to lose it is defeat.
 - 3. "The pleasures of sin" implies that once he saw where God's call lay, it would have been sin for him to turn away from it and align himself with the Egyptians. Moreover, the enjoyment produced by these pleasures would have been purely temporary (cf. Matthew 13:21; 2 Corinthians 4:17). David learned the hard way that sinful pleasure is both brief and disastrous (Psalm 51:3). His sin was short-lived in pleasure but long-lived in consequences.
- B. The Lord said there would be those who were so enamored by sinful pleasure that they would not remain true to Him (Luke 8:14). These individuals are like animals prepared for the slaughter (James 5:5; cf. Daniel 5:1-2, 5, 30-31).
- C. While there may be passing pleasures when you give into sin, there is true happiness in following God (Psalm 84:10-11; Romans 15:13). Moses had a sense of true values.

II. ***By Faith Moses Saw The Reproach Of Christ***

- A. Moses could look past the gold and glitter of Egypt and see great blessings in following the Lord (Hebrews 11:26).
 - 1. Moses saw that if he cast his lot with the Israelites, he would encounter hardship (cf. Acts 14:22).
 - a) If he identified himself with them, his condition would be like theirs. He left the court -- not because he was driven away, not

because there was nothing there to gratify ambition, and not on account of harsh treatment.

- b) The term "esteeming" involves careful thought, not quick decision. Moses thought through his decision, weighing the pros and cons. He deliberately preferred the trials and sorrows of God's people.
- 2. What was the "reproach of Christ"? Moses suffered in Egypt the same reproach that Christ was later to bear.
 - a) Both Moses and Christ were rejected by their own people -- Jesus in being sent to the cross and Moses in being rejected after killing the Egyptian slave driver.
 - b) Both Moses and Christ chose the path of hardness and difficulty as opposed to ease and comfort because they wanted to do God's will.
- B. Reproach, or insult, itself is not desirable; but when a man receives it in an effort to do good to others, it is worth more to him than gold (Hebrews 13:13; 1 Peter 4:13-14).
 - 1. The scars an old soldier receives in the defense of his country are a greater source of pride and honor to him than a pension.
 - 2. Likewise, the reproach a Christian receives living godly is the source of greater riches than all the wealth that could be gained in a life of sin (Ephesians 3:8, 14-17; Philippians 4:19; Colossians 1:27; 2:1-2).

III. ***By Faith Moses Saw The Reward Of Eternity***

- A. He was able to see ahead to the end of the journey (Hebrews 11:26).
 - 1. Can we seriously believe that Moses thought that leading a group of complaining, selfish slaves would have ever approached the glory and honor that would have been his in Egypt?
 - 2. Why did he turn it down and take a stand with the people of God? He, like Abraham and the other patriarchs, believed in heaven (Hebrews 10:35; 11:6, 16, 39-40).
- B. While Moses and the other Old Testament patriarchs had the promise of a rest not clearly seen, we have the light of day of the New Testament to tell us clearly that we have a better country awaiting us (Romans 8:17; Ephesians 1:14, 18; Titus 3:7). If we will look ahead, we will see that nothing in this world can compare to the incorruptible, undefiled, and unfading inheritance (1 Peter 1:3-4). Rejoice that your names are written in heaven (Luke 10:20).

Conclusion. During the War of 1812, the British burned Washington and bombarded Baltimore and Ft. McHenry. It was during the shelling of Ft. McHenry that an American on board one of the British ships, Francis Scott

Key, watched to see if the brave fort would hold out. Regarding the shelling he wrote these lines, "And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air, Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there." Use the eye of faith to "peer through the night" of temptation and see the beauty and splendor of reward.