

“By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king’s edict. By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.”

Hebrews 11:23-26

“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.”

Galatians 3:26-27

## Enduring Obedience in the Face of Persecution

“By faith Moses...” – Hebrews 11

When was the last time that you felt like someone was against you?

Both Moses and his parents dealt with situations in which many powerful people were against them, and because of the way they handled them, they were commended for their faith many years later.

Moses’ parents exhibited an amazing amount of faith, shown through their actions of hiding their infant son during a time in which parents were ordered to hand over their infant children to be killed. This is obviously a nightmare for any parent. How was it possible that they didn’t fear the king’s edict, as the verse says? Wasn’t it a terrifying and dangerous thing? Surely it was. It was because they had such a firm faith in God and a knowledge of God’s character as provider and protector.

While the worst did not occur for Moses’ parents, they did face repercussions of their actions. Their son was taken from their home and raised by strangers. Yet they submitted to God’s plan for their son’s life and for that they were counted faithful.

What must you sacrifice to God in faith?

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Are you willing to make this sacrifice?

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Moses’ parents had a great impact upon their son’s life and his future decisions, as well as the lives of many others through him. We later see this same trait of determined, even stubborn, obedience, even when the risk of persecution was great, in Moses.

Years later Moses followed the example of his parents and chose ill-treatment over an easier and more comfortable life. By doing this Moses exhibited not only a determination to be obedient to God, but also a true sense of identity. He recognized that above any other identity that had been offered him here on earth, he was one of God’s chosen children.

What false identity are you tempted to take on?

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What real identity is yours in Christ?

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Moses also demonstrated a proper perspective of time and circumstances. Look back to verses 25 and 26 of Hebrews 11. He

“For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”  
2 Corinthians 4:17-18

“I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”  
Philippians 3:14

“For I know the plans that I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.”  
Jeremiah 29:11

recognized that although he could have had more earthly pleasures, fame, and luxuries, that these are temporary and do not compare with the eternal reward that would be his if he persevered, as we read about in 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 and Philippians 3:14.

What is your typical reaction when you face the choice of ease or trouble?

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If you are like most of us, your decision will nearly always be to choose the easy route. The decision to put oneself in a difficult or painful situation is not instinctive, and it is not logical. It requires a perspective of life that is different from what the world tells us. It requires a belief that God is all-powerful, supremely loving, and will work out His best plan in and through these difficult situations (Jeremiah 29:11).

The root of Moses’ and Moses’ parents’ right actions was a right way of thinking about God. We, ourselves, need to make sure that our way of thinking is aligned with God’s so that we are prepared to make right choices when faced with difficult decisions. This proper perspective of God also enables us to endure, even when we face persecution, which is another trait that Moses exhibits.

Moses’ obedience was a series of decisions. He made not just one choice, but many choices over many days and years to continue to be obedient. He could have changed his mind. He could have decided that he had had enough of difficulty and pain and returned to his cushy life in the palace. But he didn’t. Instead he continued to trust in God’s wisdom and plan.

In what area do you need to be persistent in your obedience??

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The faith that Moses and his parents exhibited through obedience and endurance stemmed from a knowledge of God’s character and a gaze that was fixed properly. Hebrews 12:2 says “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

What is your gaze currently fixed on?

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What do you need to do today to align your perspective with God’s?

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What do you need to do in response to this lesson?

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