

²⁴By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. ²⁵He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. ²⁶He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. ²⁷By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. ²⁸By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.

FAITH BRINGS US TO FORKS IN THE ROAD OF LIFE

- I. Why was this true for Moses
- II. What lesson does Moses give in making a choice
- III. What was the result of Moses' choice

Fellow Redeemed,

In our walk of faith we presented with choices we need to make each day. Many of these choices are mundane and of little consequence. Shall I wear my black boots or my brown boots? Will I buy a burger for lunch or will I take the BLT? There are decisions that need to be made from time to time that require some research and study. For example, what vehicle will I purchase? What college will I attend? What career choice will I make?

The famous catcher of the New York Yankees is often quoted as saying, "When you come to a fork in the road, take it." He had a way with words, didn't he! A fork presents an option. To continue to move forward a person needs to go one way or the other rather than become frozen by indecision.

Obviously, there are choices which involve our relationship with our Savior. These are decisions which may well affect our eternal well being. It is important that each of us understands the gravity of these decisions. It is equally important that each of us is prepared to make these decisions for the right reasons and on the basis of correct information. Our goal is to do the will of God and honor our Savior.

In our text for this morning Moses reached a fork in the road of His life. Listen to the opening words of our text. ²⁴By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. ²⁵He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. What do you think life was like growing up in palace of the Pharaoh of Egypt? Don't you imagine that Moses never had to be concerned about lacking anything? His wardrobe would have been the best that money could buy. He undoubtedly had the finest education. His companions would have been from the up and coming aristocrats of the empire. I am sure that the Pharaoh's daughter saw to it that he always had plenty of spending money. Obviously a person in such a position also had at his beck and call all the pleasures of the capital city. So why was there a question regarding the direction Moses would take?

What more could a person want than this? And look at the alternative to this plush life of the palace. For Moses to go back to his people meant that he would be treated like a slave and His day to day living would be hard labor mingled with the abuse of the task masters. There, perhaps, would also have been those from his own people who would have picked on him and made fun of him because of his years in the palace.

Why would Moses want to leave the easy life of being the son of Pharaoh's daughter and trade it for the life of hard labor and lack of respect? How easy it would have been for Moses to continue as he was. Obviously, there had to be a compelling reason for Moses to change the direction of his life.

Don't miss the introductory words of the verse, By faith. Faith was alive and well in the heart of Moses. Where did that faith come from? It came from God, of course, and God instilled it in Moses' heart through the teaching of his mother and father. Remember Moses was given to his mother to nurse and take care of for the first years of his life. What a marvelous blessing this was for the boy, Moses. He was not only nurtured physically, but more importantly he was nurtured spiritually. He was taught about the promise that God had given to sin-fallen mankind to send them the Savior of the world. He was taught the history of the world from Adam and Eve to Noah and the flood. He was taught about Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He was taught about Joseph, his ancestor, who had ruled in Egypt. He was shown how all this history really fit into the story of redemption. What did this mean for Moses?

The text says, ²⁶He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. Do you see it? Moses was motivated by Christ. Christ was of greater value to him than the treasures of Egypt. How can this be?

Christ had not yet come. This is the whole point of faith, isn't it? Faith takes God at His Word. There doesn't have to be any visible evidence. Faith simply says, "I believe because God says so." Faith does not require proof. Faith does not need nail prints in the hands and a spear wound in the side. The outward circumstances may seem to be contradictory to the Word of God, but faith still believes what God says. Moses was willing to suffer disgrace for being a believer in the promised Christ rather than to take the path of luxury.

Why did he put so much stock in following Christ? The text says, because he was looking ahead to his reward. When he came to this fork, Moses wanted to follow the path that carried him to his eternal home in heaven. This is a path that leads to the life Jesus lived as our substitute and the life that leads to the all atoning blood of Jesus shed at Calvary and from there on to glory. Moses was not willing to turn away from Jesus for a few years of pleasure for the flesh and lose what Jesus had won for his eternal soul.

Right here is where we need to slice into this text. We need to understand what is at stake when we come to the forks in our walk of faith. The devil will always see to it that there are forks to confront us. He is a master at painting the signs along the way pointing us to where the action is. He holds out lying wonders to tickle the fancies of our flesh. But it is a mirage. It is like the child in the store at Christmas time. He sees a beautifully decorated tree and many presents under it. What he does not realize is that every one of those presents is an empty box.

At the same time he uses drab colors to indicate the path to follow Jesus. It looks dull. It looks like anything but exciting. It looks like a sad and painful walk. But don't be deceived by looks. When the devil is painting the signboards, that which looks great and desirable turns into just the opposite and this is also true of that which looks drab and uninviting. That path leads to glory.

You may be called on to take some hits for Jesus along the way. You may take some sniper fire from time to time. You may even be called on to lay down your life at the feet of Jesus to honor Him with a faithful witness. But the end is always glory and it is eternal glory.

Today the paths of immorality are well traveled. It is defended by those with a forked tongue of the serpent's lies, claiming to be of living naturally. Sexual activity outside of marriage has turned from being sinful to being recreational. If you have been there, repent. Dishonest business dealing has turned from being a sin to being a shortcut to success. If you have been there, repent. We have just read in the news papers how a Lutheran church body voted to invited perversion into their church body and into their pulpits under the banner of changing practices for changing times as they move closer and closer to Sodom and Gomorrah.

The text concludes, ²⁷By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. ²⁸By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel. By faith, by faith ... Moses followed Jesus, in spite of the fact that he could not see Him with his eyes. He saw Him by faith. He kept the worship pure. He kept the festivals. He observed the sacrifices. He did not allow strange fire to be brought into the tabernacle. There were times when a division of the house was called for and he did it. Who would stand with God and who would take the path to destruction?

When Moses came to a fork in the road, He determined the course to follow by listening to the Word and following the promises of God his Savior.

We are called to do the same. We even sing about it. Let us ever walk with Jesus. Follow His example pure. - when we come to the forks in the road - Flee the world that would deceive us and to sin our souls allure.

The One who has declared, Though your sins are as scarlet, they shall be white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool. is the same One says to you when you come to a fork in your road, Come, follow Me. Stay on the path He has marked out for you. Trust Him. He only wants what is best for you. His path leads to heaven. Amen