

## BY FAITH MOSES SUFFERED

Sunday Morning: April 7, 2002

**Text: Hebrews 11:24-26** "By faith Moses, when he was come to years, **refused** [middle voice] to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

25. **Choosing** [middle voice] rather to **suffer** [present middle] **affliction** with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

26. **Esteeming** [middle voice] the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had **respect** [imperfect] unto the recompense of the reward."

We are studying in the New Testament about Old Testament Saints that lived by faith. These Old Testament saints are witnessing to us by how they lived. They lived in such a way as to please God.

Here we see that Moses is making decisions for himself. I put in the text the grammar about the verbs refused, choosing, suffer, and esteeming to show that they are in the middle voice. What that means is that when translating the middle voice you would add the phrase "for myself" after the verb. Moses refused for himself. Moses esteemed for himself.

Moses had respect unto the recompense of the reward. The tense of the verb **respect** is imperfect which mean that the esteeming continued in the present tense in the past. Because he had respect unto the recompense of the reward motivated him to make some hard choices for himself.

Moses had been raised by the daughter of Pharaoh. Moses was probably in line to be next Pharaoh of Egypt. He was trained in all the customs, language and culture of Egypt and there came a time in his life that he threw all of that away. He threw the power away, the prestige away, the security away, and if he became Pharaoh they would have treated him as a god. Pharaoh's were considered deity.

Moses had been nursed by his mother in his early years and paid by Pharaoh's daughter for her services. I am sure the Moses learned from his mother's knee who he was and that he was part of the nation of Israel.

He probably learned about Joseph's bones and the promise made to Abraham that his people were going to leave Egypt and go to a promised land.

### HE HAD RESPECT

**Hebrews 11:1** "Now faith is the **substance** (reward, inheritance in the land) of things hoped for, the **evidence** (chose rejection and affliction) of things not seen."

It was by faith that Moses made these decisions to join with the nation of Israel. Faith produces substance and evidence. The substance that faith put into the heart of Moses was the reward of the land flowing with milk and honey. When the children of Israel left Egypt they were headed to the land of Canaan. This was the land that God promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. These men and their families lived in Canaan and they knew that they would one day possess that land. The land of Canaan is the land that God is going to give to the nation of Israel. Again, faith gave substance to that land.

The faith of Moses produced evidence that the substance was real. Moses chose to reject Egypt and all that Egypt could offer him. By making this choice of rejecting Egypt, I am sure, created considerable stress and anger in court of Pharaoh.

## COURT NOT THE WORLD

**1 John 2:15-16** "Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16. For all that *is* in the world, the **lust** of the **flesh**, and the **lust** of the **eyes**, and the **pride** of **life**, **is not of the Father, but is of the world.**"

Studying the Old Testament give us an illustrative picture book of New Testament truth. The Old Testament provides us with types or pictures to help us know what is presented in the New Testament.

Here is 1 John 2 we are instructed to love not the world. Egypt is a type or picture of the world. The world can provide you with a sense of security through riches, honor, and recognition. The world appeals to pride and the lust of the flesh and eye.

We are not to love the world but to the Lord. Jesus said if you love me you will keep my commandments.

What do we do to someone we love? We do things that please them. As a man I courted my wife and did things that she liked for me to do. I behaved myself with her in mind. I did not trip her so that she would fall. I did not slam the door behind me so that she would have to open it for herself.

I guess you could say that Moses tripped Egypt and slammed the door on his the way out.

## GREAT RECOMPENSE OF REWARD

**Hebrews 10:32-36** "But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were **illuminated**, ye **endured** a great fight of afflictions; 33. Partly, whilst ye were made a gazing stock both by **reproaches** and **afflictions**; and partly, whilst ye became **companions of them** (the people of God) that were so used. 34. For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance. 35. **Cast not away therefore your confidence**, which hath great **recompense of reward**. 36. For ye have need of **patience**, that, after ye have done the will of God, **ye might receive the promise.**"

Moses chose to suffer affliction with the people of God because he believed that the riches of Egypt could not compare with the riches in the land flowing with milk and honey. Moses suffered for the choice he made and so will we. Doing the will of God is not easy and there will be consequences to endure. Moses joined himself with a nation of slaves. These slaves were losers in the eyes of the Egyptians. There is a price to pay when we do the will of God.

The promise in verse 36 has the definite article before which tells us that there is particular promise being referred to. In type the land flowing with milk and honey is a type of the better inheritance which is the heavenly inheritance. The promise is defined in 1 John 2:25 "And this is **the promise** that he hath promised us, *even* **eternal** [age-lasting] **life.**" Age-lasting life is a life of honor and glory in the kingdom age. For us to receive and enter into this promise takes confidence in the fact that there is a better and a more enduring substance in the heavenlies. For us to receive that promise it takes doing the will of God the Father patiently. Receiving this promise will cost us here on the earth.

We need to remember the cost of living for the Lord and not waste the great fight of affliction by quitting. If we cast away our confidence in the promise given to us by God we may slip back into the old way of living and lose the reward of an heavenly inheritance. To receive the promised inheritance we must be faithful. Being with those who appreciate the value of the heavenly substance will help us to endure patiently doing the will of God.

## **GOD IS A REWARDER**

**Hebrews 11:6** "But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a **rewarder** of them that **diligently** seek him."

This verse tells us that if we please him He will reward us. The key to being rewarded is doing those things that please Him **diligently**.

The first thing that we must believe is that he is God, our judge. As our judge he will reward us for the things that we have done which pleased him and he will reward us for the things that we have done that had not pleased him. We will see that in the following verses.

### **JUST RECOMPENSE OF REWARD**

**Hebrews 2:2** "For if the word spoken by **angels** (messengers) was stedfast, and every **transgression** and **disobedience** received a **just recompense of reward**;"

This verse tells us that those who transgress and are disobedient will receive a just recompense of reward just like those who please God will received a just recompense of reward. The reward will not be the same.

We are warned in Hebrews 2:3 "How shall we escape, . . ." the recompense of reward for living in sin and disobedience? The answer is plain, we won't.

Just getting saved will not guarantee you rewards that you will enjoy in heaven. It take diligent obedience in doing the will of the Father.

The reward for transgression and disobedience is not a reward that we want neither do we want to wait patiently for it.

### **REWARD FOR GOOD AND EVIL**

**2 Corinthians 5:9-11** "Wherefore we **labour**, that, whether present or absent, we **may be accepted** of him. *10.* For we must **all** appear before the **judgment seat** of Christ; that every one **may receive** the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* **good** or **bad**. *11.* Knowing therefore the **terror** [fear] of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God;. . ."

There is a just recompense of reward for the good that you do and there is a just recompense of reward for the evil that you do. That is why Paul continues in verse 11 tell us that it is the fear of the Lord and the judgment seat of Christ compels him to persuade men to labor to be accepted of him at the judgment seat. We can not hide the evil that we have done and we want the reward for the good that we do because we are made manifest unto God. God knows what we are doing and we need to be assured that our reward will be a just recompense.

### **LOVERS OF PLEASURE**

**2 Timothy 3:4-5** "Traitors, heady, high minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; *5.* Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."

In 2 Timothy 3:1 "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come." It tells us that in the last days perilous times will come. Evidences of the last days is are presented in the following verses. I want to emphasize the fact that there will be those who love pleasure more than they love God.

It is evident that people are bent on pleasure. If it feels good, do it, whether it is right or wrong, whether it cost you or some one else.

We are given council to turn away from these people. Do you know why the Lord wants us to turn away from people like this? The simple fact is that those who live like this will influence you to do the same thing. It is the bad apple that makes the barrel bad. The authority of the saved is

the Word of God. If people put pleasure before God then there is no fear of God. If there is no fear of God, then God does not have the respect he needs to help them change.

### GIVEN TO PLEASURES

**Isaiah 47:8** "Therefore hear now this, *thou that art* given to pleasures, that dwellest **carelessly**, that sayest in thine heart, *I am*, and none else beside me;. . ."

Isaiah tells us how people who are addicted to pleasure live. They live in the first person singular. I, me, mine, give me. If you are given to pleasure you are going to live a careless life. You will not care about other people and you don't care about God's commandments. Lovers of pleasure think only of themselves and the rest can hang it on their beak. They live for a good time even it cost you.

### RICH TOWARD GOD?

**Luke 12:16-21** "And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain **rich man** brought forth plentifully: *17.* And he thought within himself, saying, What shall **I** do, because **I** have no room where to bestow **my** fruits? *18.* And he said, This will **I** do: **I** will pull down **my** barns, and build greater; and there will **I** bestow all **my** fruits and **my** goods. *19.* And **I** will say to **my** soul, Soul, thou hast **much goods laid** up for many years; **take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.** *20.* But God said unto him, *Thou fool*, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? *21.* So *is* he that layeth up **treasure for himself**, and is **not rich toward God.**"

Notice that this man was given to pleasure because of the first person singular nouns and pronouns that he used. Over and over he referred to my fruits, my goods and my soul. He emphasized what he would do using the word "I".

God called him a fool. If you are given to pleasures of this life, you are a fool. Can you hear God calling you a fool? What a proclamation from God.

We may lay up treasure here on the earth and buy food, drink, and a good time, but it won't buy more time to eat, drink, and be merry. If we are rich toward God, our treasures are in heaven and we will be able to enjoy the blessing of those riches for eternity and not just 70 or 80 years. This man invested his time and energy in things that will not last. His portfolio was fat and he wanted it to become fatter.

God wants us to be rich toward him by investing in things that please him, like doing his will and believing that he will take care of us even if we do not have a portfolio.

### WINGS OF RICHES

**Proverbs 23:4-5** "**Labour not to be rich**: cease from thine own wisdom. *5.* Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is **not**? for **riches** certainly make themselves wings; they **fly away** as an eagle toward heaven."

The wisdom of the world is to be rich and the richest man in the world tells us not to labor to be rich. Did he know something? Yes, I believe he did. The word *not* is also translated *gone* in other versions of the Bible. What is the point of setting your eyes, hopes, and desires on something that will be gone before you know it. Riches are like birds. You set an eagle or a bird on a table what will happen. As soon as you let go, they are gone, they are "out of here." They do not fall off of the table, but fly toward the heavens where they are out of reach.

### WHERE IS YOUR HEART

**Matthew 6:19-21** "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: *20.* But lay up for yourselves treasures

in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: 21. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Earthly treasures are the same thing as moth eaten clothes and rusty things that lose their value. Earthly treasures can not be protected from thieves. You are going to try to protect your treasures, but thieves will find a way to get to them and take them.

Were are your treasures? If they are here on the earth, you are going to be thinking about earthly things. If you treasures are in heaven, you are going to be thinking about heavenly things, that is, things that God is thinking about.

I have shared this more than once about my experience with the stock market. I bought some stocks in the stock market some 30 years ago. My stock was doing good. I was making money. As my habit was, I was church on Sunday and Wednesday trying to worship and serve the Lord but it was not happening. I could not get my mind off of those stocks that I owned and on to the things of the Lord. When I was sitting in the services do you know what I was thinking about? I was thinking about what my stocks were doing. My heart was where my treasure was and it was not in heaven. I was convicted of having my heart set on things on here on the earth and not on things in heaven. I confessed this to the Lord that it was wrong and told him (tongue in cheek) "If you will raise my stock tomorrow I will sell it." No I did not say that. I purposed in my heart to sell all of my stock the next day regardless of whether I lost money or made money. I got out of the stock market because it was interfering with me being rich toward God.

I have never regretted doing that. When I got rid of my distraction it was easier for me to get my mind on what counts.

### **RICHES AND PLEASURES CHOKE**

**Luke 8:10-14** "And he said, Unto you it is given to know the **mysteries of the kingdom of God**: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand. 11. Now the parable is this: The seed is **the word of God**. 12. Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. 13. They on the rock *are they*, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which **for a while believe [present active]**, and in time of temptation **fall away**. 14. And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are **choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life**, and bring **no fruit to perfection**."

The parable of the sower helps us to understand what riches and other distractions will do for us. The Lord tells us that hearing and understanding the word of God, which are the mysteries of the kingdom, will allow us to be fruitful and a blessing to others. If the Word of God is choked out of our lives then we will fall away and not produce the fruit that will bless others and bring us to a place of perfection or completion.

What can choke the word?

The Devil can cause us not to take the time to understand or remember the word of the Kingdom. Another factor that will choke the word is persecution and testing that offends us and does not make us popular with others. The third thing is the cares of this life as well as riches and pleasures. If the word of the kingdom is choked out of your life you are not going to be a fruitful profitable servant. An unprofitable servant will receive a just recompense of reward just as a profitable servant. The difference is, the profitable servant is going to like what he gets and God "guarantees it." and the unprofitable servant is not going to like what he gets and God also "guarantees that."

What does the unprofitable servant receive? The unprofitable servant is cast into outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Those that are cast into outer darkness are not the lost but saved unprofitable servants. Is it any wonder Paul exclaims "knowing therefore the fear of the Lord we persuade men." What did Paul persuade men to do? To be profitable servants by living by faith which pleases God.

### **THROUGH TRIBULATION**

**Acts 14:22** "Confirming the souls of the disciples, *and* exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much **tribulation** enter into the **kingdom** of God."

The way that we see the kingdom of God is to believe on the Lord Jesus and we are born into the family of God, common salvation. The way that we enter the kingdom of God is to endure much tribulation, so great salvation.

Moses endured rejection and tribulation from Egypt when he came to deliver the nation of Israel from the slavery of Egypt. Moses endured opposition and rejection from the people of God as well. The opposition from the people of God continued for forty years of wilderness wanderings. We need to submit to the fact that if we want to have an heavenly inheritance we are going to have to suffer much tribulation.

### **ENDURE PERSECUTIONS**

**2 Thessalonians 1:4-5** "So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:

5. *Which is* a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be **counted worthy of the kingdom** of God, for which ye also suffer:"

The church at Thessalonica had to endure persecutions and tribulations. Their perseverance in persecutions and tribulation became a witness and an example to the other churches. Why do we have to endure persecutions and tribulations? Because it is a righteous judgment of God. It is the right thing for God to allow in our lives. He is testing our endurance and patience so that we may be counted worthy of His kingdom.

It is through persecutions and tribulation that we learn whether or not we are truly interested in the best that God has for us. If we are not truly interested in the better inheritance we will quit.

### **PLEASURE IN INFIRMITIES**

**2 Corinthians 12:10** "Therefore I take **pleasure** in **infirmities**, in **reproaches**, in **necessities**, in **persecutions**, in **distresses** for Christ's sake.."

For us to endure tribulations and persecution we have to have the mind set of Paul. Paul knew that to have God's best, we would have to suffer. If we know that, we too can take pleasures in the trials and testing of life.

### **AFFLICTION FOR A MOMENT**

**2 Corinthians 4:17** "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory;"

Here is another example of how we need to view our afflictions. We need to view our affliction as something that is light in comparison to our reward, the age-lasting weight of glory. Our troubles are for a very short time compared to the 1000 year reign of Christ that we will enjoy if we endure the light affliction.

How long is a moment when it comes to our affliction? We can live 70 or 80 years and we are not tested for the whole 70 or 80 years, so you can see that 80 years is no comparison to the 1000 year reign of Christ.

## HAPPY IN REPROACHES

**1 Peter 4:12-14** "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: **13. But rejoice**, inasmuch as ye are **partakers of Christ's sufferings**; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with **exceeding joy**. **14.** If ye be **reproached** for the name of Christ, happy *are ye*; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but **on your part he is glorified.**"

It is not unusual for those in the family God to suffer and we are not to think it a strange thing when it happens. When suffering comes we are to rejoice. When we suffer we are participating in the sufferings of Christ. Paul wanted to enter into those sufferings when we read Philippians 3:10 "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, . . ." Did Jesus Christ suffer while he was here on the earth? Yes. Do you think that we are going to get by with less? No, we are not.

When will we received the just recompense of reward? Rewards will be given when His glory shall be revealed. That is when our sorrow and suffering will be turned into gladness and exceeding great joy. May the Lord help us to glorify God in the way that we handle suffering.

### GREAT IS YOUR REWARD IN THE KINGDOM

**Matthew 5:10-12** "Blessed *are they* which are **persecuted** for righteousness' sake: for **theirs is the kingdom of heaven**. **11. Blessed are ye**, when *men* shall **revile** you, and **persecute you**, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. **12. Rejoice**, and be exceeding **glad**: for **great is your reward in heaven**: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."

Moses was one of the prophets that suffered. He is just one of the witnesses in the cloud of witnesses that we find in Hebrews 11. He made choices that glorified God and cost him personally. We are encouraged to make choices that will allow us to enter into the kingdom of the heavens. If we do we will be reviled, persecuted and will be evil spoken of. To experience these things is no fun, but it will be worth it in the end. Why? Because we will rejoice and be exceeding glad. These feelings of joy will come when we receive a just recompense of reward. The just recompense of reward will be more than we can anticipate. Our reward will be great in heaven.

James 5:10-11 "Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. **11.** Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy." We need to believe this and live as the prophets and Job lived. They lived accepting the suffering of affliction with patience. May the Lord help us to make choices that will glorify the Lord and bring us the greatest reward in His coming kingdom.