

## THE YOUNG MOSES: “BY FAITH”

Hebrews 11:23-26 provides insight into the early life of Moses, the great deliverer of God’s people from Egyptian bondage. Exodus 2 is the source of the narrative account upon which this passage in Hebrews is based. The two passages together provide for us compelling instruction on the subject of living by faith.

The first thing we notice here is that Moses family had faith. Moses’ mother was named Jochebed, which means, “glory of God.” Her sister’s name was Miriam (see Numbers 26:59). When the decree came down from the Egyptian king to kill all the little boys, this family was not afraid of the king’s commandment.

There are admittedly few times when governmental authority can and should be ignored. We should seek to *live peaceably with all men* (Romans 12:18). Romans 13 teach us to be *subject to higher powers*. Peter told us to submit to properly constituted ordinances of men (1 Peter 2:13-17). Indeed he said, “*Honor the king*” (1 Peter 3:17). We recognize that the situation in which Jochebed found herself in was exceptional. To follow pharaoh’s decree would be a great evil and contrary to God’s revealed will. She had to choose between obeying God and man. She had faith and obeyed God.

This is a sticky area of thought, even for us today. Governments of the earth, including ours, do and allow many things contrary to the will of God. What do we do? What can we do? As in many things the answer lies in the reasoned application of Biblical principle to the circumstances. If I can change or resist a sinful governmental practice or directive by use of law and the system the law provides and maintains peace and mutual respect, I must do so. But when and if any government requires evil of me and I have no other recourse, I must resist that power, even if it is a “power that be.” This is what Moses’ mother and sister did that day along the river.

We also see here that Moses faith became focused, as he grew older. Hebrews 11:24 used the expression, “*when he had come to years.*” His family had obviously told him who he was. He could have stayed where he was in the comfort of the home of the Egyptian regent. But his faith matured and became his own.

Each of us has to come to a point in our own lives when we become our own man or woman. We all have to grow up...if not completely, at least a little. An important component of this maturation has to do with our faith. At some point in life a person's faith must transition from parental to personal. It is good to grow up going to Bible classes and church services. It is a great blessing to learn to believe what our parents believe. But at some point it must become our own faith, something that we have for ourselves. This is part of becoming an independent human being. We then exercise our freewill to serve God as that independent person. Moses faith became so focused.

His faith was also fervent. He saw the iniquity of the situation and the suffering of his fellowmen. He could not stand idly by. He had to do something. So he made a choice to suffer with them rather than to enjoy a comfortable physical existence (Hebrews 11:25). Moses would have to draw upon the fervency of his faith in the days to come for his work as deliverer was difficult, complicated and not consistently appreciated. What Moses went through brings to mind the old saying, "no good deed goes unpunished."

Finally, Moses faith had foresight. Hebrews 11:26 said he was "*esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt.*" Moses may not have known the details of God's plan for man. But he knew that God's promises are always true, good and just. Moses lived by faith, trusting the future to God. May we do the same today?

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