

Grace, mercy, and peace are yours in abundance through faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

²³ By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

²⁴ By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. ²⁵ He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. ²⁶ He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. ²⁷ By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. ²⁸ By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel. ²⁹ By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned. **This is God's Word.**

Dear People of Faith,

The Book of Hebrews is a book that calls the believer to consider what a Precious Treasure we have in Christ. In the first part of the book the author lays out the doctrine of the supremacy of Christ – both as true God and as the perfect sacrifice for our sins. He then goes on to apply this to the Christians life. The last part of this book is about the importance of faith – Faith is necessary in that it is the conduit that brings us the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Faith is a key part of our lives and is evident in the way we live our lives. Today as we consider just how important faith in Christ is, we want to take a look at, **“Moses – one of the Greatest Examples of Faith.”**

I. Chapter 11 of the Book of Hebrews has been called the “Grandest Chapter in the Bible on Faith.” The author defines faith as, **“Being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.”** (Hebrews 11:1). He then goes on to give actual examples of faith to substantiate the definition he has given. Even though you can't see faith as an object, it is evident by the actions of the people who have it.

The most obvious example of faith is Abraham. He left his home and country because he believed and trusted in God. He was willing to sacrifice his son on the side of a mountain because he believed and trusted in God. We are told that his faith was credited to him as righteousness. (James 2:23). The faith of Isaac and Jacob are also mentioned as they passed down the Messianic blessing to their sons. They believed the promise of God to send a Savior and did not take the Messianic blessing lightly. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are often mentioned together in the Bible and we would expect to hear about the actions of these men as examples of faith, but then we get to Moses.

When I think of Moses, faith is not the first thing that comes to mind. When I think of Moses, I think of the 10 Commandments – the Law. I think of Moses always having to rebuke the Children of Israel – of judgment. But as we consider the verses of our sermon text we are going to see that Moses is one of the greatest examples of faith.

It began with his parents. **“By faith Moses’ parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king’s edict.”** The parents of Moses were people of faith. Somehow they knew Moses was special and they knew the king’s edict, to drown all male children that were born, went against God’s law so they obeyed God rather than the king. They were not afraid. They believed and trusted in God and God had special plans for this special child. God made sure that Moses was adopted by none other than Pharaoh’s daughter. She raised Moses as her own son. Luke tells us, **“Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action.”** (Acts 7:22).

Moses was set for life but, **“By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter.”** Moses was about 40 years old. Obviously he knew he was Jewish and somehow through all these years he had been taught God’s Word and remained faithful to the one true God. He did not want to be identified with the Egyptians because they were a heathen nation and they were not the people of God.

“He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time.” His decision brought mistreatment but he didn’t want to participate in the sin of disowning his own people for earthly pleasures. **“He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.”**

The treasures of Egypt were enormous but they don’t compare to the treasure of salvation. We don’t know if Moses realized that God had chosen him to lead the people out of Egypt but there is no doubt that Moses trusted in the promises of God to deliver his people and to send a Savior. Moses understood that salvation was his through faith in the promised Savior and so he was willing to suffer for the greater reward of heaven.

“By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king’s anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.” The first time Moses left Egypt, he feared for his life because he had killed a man and his own people had not embraced him as one of their own. But the words before us are a reference to when Moses led the Children of Israel out of Egypt after the 10th plague. Moses was about 80 years old and had grown in his faith. He knew it was God’s will that the Children of Israel leave Egypt at this time and so he trusted God to protect him and the Children of Israel no matter what action the king might take against them. The people followed Moses because he had faith in **“him who is invisible.”** Peter describes this faith in another way, **“Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,”** (1 Peter 1:8). At this point there was no pillar of smoke or pillar of fire to lead the people but Moses knew God was with them all the same as they left Egypt.

“By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.” Faith saved God’s people because they trusted God to hold the waters back while they crossed on dry land, but for the Egyptians, who had no faith in God, there was nothing to keep the sea from crashing down upon them and they drowned.

Did Moses always have such a strong faith? We would like to think so, but the Bible tells us that when God called Moses to lead the Children of Israel out of Egypt, Moses gave God quite a few excuses – he was happy where he was, even though God was calling for him to do greater things. There are times when we are like Moses in so many ways.

Times when our faith is strong – when we eagerly talk about our Savior, our trust in God, and the forgiveness of sins that comes to us through our faith in Jesus. Times when we point to the cross and explain the love of our God who sent his Son to hang on that cross in our place.

But there are also times when, like Moses, we don't want God to interfere with our lives – things are going well and we don't want them to change. Maybe we have a new hobby or job that keeps us away from church. Maybe we have a new boyfriend or girlfriend that just isn't into religion. Maybe we have the abilities to serve or help out in some way but we just don't feel like it. Our faith is there in our hearts but not evident in our actions and if we stay away from God's Word long enough it will disappear from our hearts all together.

Consider why the writer of this book recorded these examples of faith. To help us understand that the power to trust and believe in God, and the power to put your faith into action comes from God. Moses was not able to do any of these things – trust in God and lead the Children of Israel with confidence – without God's help. It is faith that brought him the strength and the spiritual wisdom to trust in God and do all these great things. It is faith that kept Moses going in trying times until God called him home to heaven.

God does the same for us. When we doubt and waver, when we are tempted to take a path in life that leads us away from God – He channels his Word to us through our faith in our Savior to pull us back onto the path of righteousness and to bring us strength to move ahead and live as a Child of God.

Never underestimate the importance of your faith in Jesus. God inspired the writer of this book to devote a whole chapter to faith and the Bible contains numerous examples of faith in action. May we continue to strengthen our faith through God's Word all the days of our lives and may our faith be evident in all that we do. Amen.