

“Heroes of the Faith #5 – ‘The Right to Choose’”

If there is one thing we all have in common about life, it is that we all make decisions. Some are simple and unimportant. Some are complex and extremely important. Some are made by default and others are strategic. So often, the quality of our lives are determined much more by our decisions than by our circumstances.

As we believe God for the impossible this year, right choices must be made as we step out in faith. In previous articles, we saw Joshua choose to act upon God’s promises to secure victory. We saw Noah choose to obey God and build a seemingly senseless ark. We saw Abraham make the decision to leave his home in order to accomplish God’s will and have a baby at the ripe old age of 99.

Today we will look at one of the most respected Old Testament figures in Jewish history. In fact, there probably is no one, other than Jesus, that illustrates the power of right decision more than Moses.

“By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible.”
Hebrews 11:24-28

While writing this article, God reminded me of a recent encounter when I was sharing the gospel with a millennial at LAX airport. After hearing the gospel, he said, “Will I have to give up something in order to become a Christian?” Aww, yeah! Faith will always send us packing our bags on some journey for God. I guarantee it. He will always ask us to leave behind certain things in this world.

Here in Hebrews 11, I saw Moses make decisions to leave behind some incredible things.

1. By faith he rejected worldly PRESTIGE (verse 24-26)

For many years, Moses had been a prince of Egypt. He had it all, like good looks, social status, military dominance, proper education, prominence, political power, independent wealth and succession to the throne of Egypt.

When Moses turned forty, he faced a crucial decision. It is a “crisis of belief” as Blackaby puts it. Does he decide on the one thing, which would elevate him to a higher position of authority and prominence in the world?

We know for sure that Moses was a man of faith because verse 25 illustrates how he made a moral choice between the present enjoyment of pleasure and the present mistreatment of doing what was right.

Here is a question for us. What are we choosing to leave behind in this world of prestige and prominence? What are we willing to give up in order to accomplish the mission or assignment that God has given? Remember, the depth of our faith can be measured by our decisions in what we leave behind in this world.

2. By faith he rejected worldly PRESSURE. (verse 27)

Everybody knows what it is like to panic about something. What I notice is that we become immobilized and powerless. Moses was under intense pressure to preserve the enormous wealth, power, prestige and pleasure that was at his fingertips.

The greatest pressure Moses was dealing with was the anger of the King of Egypt. Fear is a common pressure that has paralyzed many before us. Abraham was afraid of a king who he thought wanted his wife. Aaron became afraid of the people while Moses was on Mt. Sinai. The disciples were afraid of the storm at sea. Peter was afraid of criticism after he denied Jesus three times. Fear is a great pressure and all of us are tempted at times to bend when standing for the Lord. Moses faced enormous intimidations from the world, but he did not panic. His life-long vision of God was the secret of his faith and it preserved him.

3. By faith he accepted God's PROVISION. (verse 28)

We know God may ask us to do some seemingly ridiculous things in order to prove our love, faith and obedience. It seemed ridiculous to ask Noah to build a boat 450' long, but he did it. It seemed ridiculous to ask Joshua to take on the most fortified city in all of Canaan, but he did it. It seemed ridiculous to ask Abraham to kill his only son who was to become an heir of a great nation, but he would have. It seems equally ridiculous to ask Moses to sprinkle blood on the doorposts of his house so their first-born would not die, but he did it.

Obviously, the blood itself has no power to fight off the death angel. Sprinkling the blood as God had commanded, was an act of faith and obedience. The blood was symbolic of Christ's sacrifice by which He conquered death for all who believe in Him. Faith always accepts God's provisions, no matter how strange and pointless it may seem to human understanding.

We can be the same way. We are bombarded with so many distractions, pleasures, pressures, fears, opportunities and more. How will we decide?

Last weekend, Karen and I were watching our granddaughter run her first 5k. It was so exciting. Just before she rounded the corner to the finish line, I heard something from a parent that made me laugh. A father was encouraging his daughter to finish strong when he yelled to her, "Don't quit now. People are watching!"

Friends, we have so much to accomplish for God in the mission of "making disciples". This mission will require faith that at times seems absurd and senseless. Do you believe God to accomplish something impossible through your church? The finish line is in sight. It is around the corner. Don't quit now because people are watching!

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