



Today's Sermons

Morning: The Role of Women
Evening: A Sermon about Nothing

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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	44
Sunday AM Worship	51
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Wed. Bible Study	35
Offering	\$1582



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Times of Services:
Sunday
Bible Study:... 10:00am
AM Worship...11:00am
PM Worship:...6:00pm
2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday
Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program
Sunday:.....7:30am
"Back to the Bible"
AM 580 WSKS
93.5 FM

**We Extend A
Warm & Cordial
Welcome
To All Our
Visitors!**

What Does It Mean That Moses Esteemed "the Reproach of the Christ" Greater Riches Than the Treasures in Egypt? Roger D. Campbell

This is a reference to the message of Hebrews 11:26. Hebrews 11 is about living "by faith," and this great chapter shows us how various men and women of the Old Testament era pleased the Lord by serving Him with an obedient faith. One Old Testament great that is mentioned in this passage is Moses, about whom it is written in Hebrews 11:24-27:

(24) By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; (25) Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; (26) Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward. (27) By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

At the age of forty, Moses killed an Egyptian and fled the land of Egypt in fear (Exodus 2). Later, by the command of Jehovah, he returned at the age of eighty to lead the children of Israel out of Egyptian bondage. According to Hebrews 11:27, on the second occasion, because of his faith, he was not afraid to depart from Egypt.

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But what of Moses' choices? He could have continued to be counted as the son of Pharaoh's daughter, or he could choose to be associated with God's people. He could have enjoyed the material blessings of being the adopted grandson of the king, or he could choose the reproach of the Christ. This raises the very question that we are considering: how could Moses, who lived some 1500 years before Jesus was born, possibly "*esteem the reproach of Christ?*"

First, we know that when Jesus lived on the earth, He was reproached by men. "*For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me*" (Romans 15:3). Jesus was "*despised and rejected of men,*" "*He was oppressed, and he was afflicted*" (Isaiah 53:3,7), He was mocked (Matthew 27:41), He was falsely accused (Luke 23:2), and He was reviled, even though He never one time did anything wrong (1 Peter 2:22,23). Yes, some even "*blasphemed Him*" (Luke 23:39, NKJV).

But, how could Moses know anything about the Christ? We know that there had been prophecies about the coming Messiah. Before Moses' birth, God had already promised Abraham that the Messiah or "seed" (Galatians 3:16) would come from his descendants (Genesis 12:3; 22:16). The Lord later made the same promise to Isaac (Genesis 26:4) and to Jacob (Genesis 28:14). The Bible further records that Jacob prophesied that Shiloh or Giver of Peace, would come through Judah (Genesis 49:10). The Israelite people, including Moses, were thus well familiar with God's promise to send the Messiah into the world as the seed of woman (Genesis 3:15; Galatians 4:4). Later, after Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt, God revealed through Moses that God was going to raise up a Prophet like unto Moses, and that, of course, would be the Messiah or Christ (Deuteronomy 18:15,18).

In what sense, though, could Moses be able to "esteem" the reproach of the Christ while still living in Egypt? Moses understood that even though he lived in the house of Pharaoh's daughter and was separated from the Israelite people, they were "*his brethren the children of Israel*" (Acts 7:23; Exodus 2:11). So, Moses knew that he was an Israelite. He also would have understood the significance of being of the offspring of Jacob, also known as Israel – he was part of "*the people of God*" (Hebrews 11:25). They were the very ones through whom the Messiah would come. Thus, his choice to leave his life as an Egyptian and join himself to his own people, the Israelites, was a choice to be identified with the family or nation of the coming Christ. In this sense, then, he "by faith" made the decision to take his place or stand with the Messiah's people, the Messiah Himself, and the reproach that the Messiah would suffer.

Go back and look at the wording of the text in Hebrews 11:24-27. Look at what Moses did. On the one side, here were his decisions:

1. He forsook Egypt (27).
2. He refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter (24).
3. He decided not to take advantage of or enjoy sin's pleasures for a season (25).
4. He chose not to be the recipient of the treasures in Egypt (26).

Putting all of these ideas together, we would conclude that "by faith" he determined that it was not in his best spiritual interest to stay with his old life among the Egyptians. In

contrast to the four items noted above, look at Moses' choices on the other side of the ledger:

1. He decided to suffer affliction with the people of God (25).
2. He chose the reproach of the Christ (26)
3. He looked to the reward (26).
4. He endured "*as seeing him who is invisible*" (27).

In all honesty, we are not certain of all that Moses knew and understood when he left Egypt, either on the first or second occasion. Of this much we *are* certain, however. The man had a strong faith – strong enough to choose the spiritual over the material. May the Lord help us to have such a faith.

“Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands. She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar. She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens. She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard. She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms. She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night. She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff. She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy. She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet. She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple. Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land. She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant”
(Proverbs 31:10-24).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- May 15 – Ladies' Night Out
- May 20 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship (Friends & Family Day)
- May 27 – Song Service
- June 3 – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Class
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell