

After his resurrection from the dead, Jesus had a conversation with two men who were on the road to Emmaus. But they didn't recognize him until he recited God's Word to them. We read, **Luke 24:27, "beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, (Jesus) explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself."**

The Old Testament saints knew the pre-incarnate Christ. Tonight, we're going to talk about the Christmas Faith of Moses and about how that faith shaped his walk with God.

### **OPENING PRAYER**

**HEBREWS 11:23-28: "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 Pharaoh's edict. By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,<sup>25</sup> choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.<sup>26</sup> He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.<sup>27</sup> By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.<sup>28</sup> By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them."**

We read, **Hebrews 11:23, "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 Pharaoh's edict."**

Pharaoh had become afraid of the Jews whom he'd enslaved because they had grown so great in numbers. So he ordered the slaughter of all the baby boys. But Moses' parents knew God had another plan for their son. Thus they hid him and then they put him in a basket and floated him down the Nile River, where he was retrieved by Pharaoh's daughter, who raised him as her son.

Moses' survival was the result of his parents' faith. So he was literally born into the faith, a faith steeped in the stories of Creation and Adam and Eve; Cain and Abel, Noah's Ark, and the Tower of Babel; and God's work in the lives of the forefathers of Israel, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

We read, **Hebrews 11:24-25**, **“By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, <sup>25</sup> choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.”**

Moses first attempts to assimilate with his people didn't go so well. He made his way into their camp in Goshen, which was near what is the Suez Canal today. He saw how they suffered as slaves under their Egyptian taskmasters, and he longed to help them. So one day as he walked through the camp, he saw an Egyptian beating a Jew, and he killed him and buried him in the sand.

Taking justice into his own hands may have seemed natural to Moses at the time. After all, he lived in the same house as the Egyptian god, Pharaoh! But apparently that power only went one direction, for Pharaoh put a price on his head after he'd heard what Moses had done.

We read, **Hebrews 11:26-28**, **“(Moses) considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. <sup>27</sup> By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured because he saw Him who is invisible.”**

Moses was not afraid of Pharaoh, but he didn't want to die, for he knew God had other work for him to do. We read, **“he was looking to the reward.”** The reward Moses looked for was the promised Savior.

Have you ever wondered how the people BEFORE Jesus' incarnation were saved? Jesus himself provided the answer. He said, **John 5:46**, **“If you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote of me.”**

Jesus was talking about the manna, bread from heaven, God sent down to sustain the people (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:2). For Jesus himself is the ultimate Bread of Life (John 6:35). Jesus was talking about the water which poured from the rock after Moses struck it with his staff, which is an allusion to the Living Water which Christ

would pour out on all who believe (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:4; John 7:37-39). Jesus was talking Moses' power over the Red Sea as an allusion to Baptism (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:1). These are just a few examples of how Moses wrote about the work of Christ.

We read, **Hebrews 11:26a, “(Moses) considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt.”**

Moses grew up surrounded by material wealth, and he turned his back on it. Why? We read that **“he was looking to the reward.”**

When Moses fled Pharaoh, he went to Arabia. There he married Zippora, the daughter of Jethro, whose sheep he herded for the following 40 years. Forty years: When Moses was 80 years old, God called him from the burning bushing to go on a mission.

Moses never stopped **“looking to the reward.”**

One of my favorite parts about how God recruited Moses was that he had to press him to accept his call four times before he finally accepted. He didn't feel worthy, he didn't think he could do the work. But even though Moses didn't believe in himself, God did. And that's what counts.

I like this part of the story because it makes clear that God is in charge, and despite my misgivings and poor judgment, God is in charge, and his will, will be done.

We read, **Hebrews 11:28, “By faith (Moses) kept the Passover and sprinkled blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch him.”**

God made a promise. If the people marked the doorposts and the lintels of their home's with the sacrificial blood of an unblemished lamb, they would live. I don't think it's an accident that marking the lintel and doorposts was in the shape of a cross.

Indeed, Moses wrote about Jesus before the first Christ, for **“he was looking to the reward.”**

Moses grew in faith because he looked outside of himself to God. When my daily program becomes my god, when money and possessions become more important than peace of mind and care for my fellowman, when the daily news becomes more powerful in my heart and mind than the Word of God, then I become just like Israel in the wilderness, thirsty and hungry, grumbling and complaining about how I've been dealt a poor hand.

But when my eyes are "**looking to the reward,**" just like Moses, everything changes.

Friends in Christ, God already believes in you. You are his children, his sons and daughters, heirs of his heavenly kingdom. And nothing can take that away from you.

This week as we draw near to Christmas, let us consider the life and faith of Moses, reflecting on our own journeys and how the Lord has already called and equipped us for his service.

This week let us look to the reward, indeed, gazing into the very face of the Christ Child, and be encouraged.

And this week may you have the opportunity to share this good news with another person who really needs to hear it, in the name of Jesus. Amen.