

Moses' Life of Faith

I. Slide#1 Announce:

- A. **Slide#2 Married Couples** - Our *Better Together* marriage ministry is hosting, Sacred Promise Conf.
1. **Fri night** 2/27 6:30pm enjoy *a live play* by Michael/Jodi Sewell *Marriage Conspiracy*
 2. **Sat day** 2/28 conf 9am-3pm. **\$35 per couple/info booth**. Engaged couples invited also.
 - a) **Topics:** *To Have/Hold. For Better/Worse. Richer/Poor. Sickness/Health. Roles in marriage. Love/Cherish till death.*
- B. **Slide#3 Justice Matters Conf** - This Sat. justice-matter.com
1. FBI tells us that 1/3 of all runaways will be **contacted** by a pimp within **48 hours** of leaving home. W/in 72 hours will have been **prostituted**. **Average age at which a person is first prostituted in the U.S. is between 11-14 years.**
 2. Thus our Title: **"Because our children are still at Risk."**
- C. **Slide#4 Prayer:** Students arriving at CCBC. JM4.

II. Intro:

- A. We continue on in the gallery of O.T. heroes of faith...our next runner up is **Moses**.
1. Moses was Israel's **greatest lawgiver** (Moses synonymous w/Lawgiver), **historian** (writer of Pent, Israel's history), & **deliverer** (story of Exodus).
 2. **In every critical stage** in Moses' life, **faith** shaped him for his ultimate ministry.
 3. **Slide#5** And listen to this unparalleled **epitaph** written in Deut. 34:10-12 NLT
There has never been another prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face. The Lord sent him to perform all the miraculous signs and wonders in the land of Egypt against Pharaoh, and all his servants, and his entire land. With mighty power, Moses performed terrifying acts in the sight of all Israel.
- B. **Slide#6 Title:** *Moses' life of Faith*
Outline: *Faith Does. Faith Chooses. Faith Waits. Faith Obey's. Faith Moves*

III. Slide#7a [1] FAITH DOES...THE RIGHT THING (23)

- A. **This story is told in Ex.2:1-10.** This actually has to do with the faith of Moses *parents*.
1. **Their names were Amram & Jochebed.** Both of the tribe of Levi. They had 2 other children whom we know: **Aaron**, the oldest; **Miriam**, Moses' older sister; & **Moses**.
 2. **It was at a very dark time for Israel.** When Pharaoh commanded the Hebrew midwives to murder all the males immediately upon birth.
- B. **A beautiful child** – *What parent doesn't look at their child & think their child's the cutest child ever?*
1. **It means:** fine, healthy, *no ordinary child* (NIV) which is what is implied.
 2. Obviously there was something about him that made him *more beautiful*.

- a) He was not only beautiful, **but** a **gifted & unusually promising one**.
- C. Moses parent's came up w/this **creative plan** to *float him right into Pharaoh's palace*.
1. **Slide#7b** Now, he wasn't **shootin the rapids** as in some coloring books.
 2. **She laid the lil ark in the reeds, by the rivers bank**.
- D. **Slide#8 Jochebed's Faith** paid immediate dividends, as she got **paid to nurse** her own child. **And** to **raise him** during the *early & most formative years* of his life.
1. **Do you realize while Pharaoh** was trying his best to **murder** the Hebrew babies; his **daughter** was using *royal funds keeping one alive*. [**That's so like our God**]
 2. **So, Amram** (*friend of Jehovah*) & **Jochebed** (*Jehovah is her Glory*) were the **molders & shapers** of Moses faith during the early years (Ex.2:9,10).
 - a) Moses became aware of his own **origins**; was taught to **fear God**; made conscious of his **call to deliver** his people. *As Acts 7:25 attests to this, For he supposed that his brethren would have understood that God would deliver them by his hand, but they did not understand*)
 - b) Their *faith, prayers, bravery, & their creativity* saved their son.
 - c) **What an encouragement** for those of us who are attempting to raise a godly family in today's **secular desert**. (Kent Hughes) [**Great reminder to: quit whining** *about how bad our world is & start being creative on how to pour into our children*]
- E. **Slide#9 Personal Lesson: Don't Fear the Pharaoh's**.
1. Entrust your children into God's care.
 2. **New mom's & dad's, since your children are only yours "on loan" ...Entrust God with your child & show your faith, by making a little ark, and floating your child in the reeds of God's Nile** when asked.
 3. **Of course you can come up with a 100 reasons why you can't** [what if waves come, what if it's not-waterproof, what if he's found, taken, or drowned by the Egyptians, what if...] *Don't Fear the worlds Pharaoh's*.

IV. **Slide#10 [2] FAITH CHOOSES...AFFLICTION OVER AFFLUENCE (24-26)**

- A. **This story is told in Ex.2:11-15**. Moses is now a 40yr old man.
- B. (24) **The son of the Pharaoh** – was a title, a royal designation.
1. Living during this **19th Egyptian Dynasty** would've meant **prestige & wealth**.
 2. **Giving this life up** must have been a blow to Pharaoh. *Faith is courageous*.
- C. **Slide#11a** (25) Erma Bombeck, **Don't confuse fame with success. Madonna is one, & Helen Keller is the other**. [I told you I was sick.(requested epitaph) I didn't fight my way to the top of the food chain to be a vegetarian]
- D. **Slide#11b Sin is pleasurable** - "...*the pleasures of sin for a season*"(KJV). "...rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time."(NIV). "passing pleasure of sin"(NASB).

1. **Faith** must *choose* between the **attractive**...but temporary & **affliction**...but eternal.
 2. It is **wrong** to teach your children that sin *isn't* **pleasurable**, when the bible says *it is*.
 - a) What we need to teach them is that it's a *temporary* pleasure w/devastating consequences.
 - b) I didn't stop drinking, going to parties, & doing drugs *because* I didn't enjoy it any longer. *No, I learned where that road leads to...There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.*
 3. So, how did Moses *say no* to those Egyptians delights? (see 26)
- E. (26) **He looked to the reward**
1. **Looked** = "to keep one's attention fixed on something, as an artist fixes his attention on the object or model that he is reproducing in painting or sculpture." (LKGNT)
 2. **Slide#12** Apollo 13, to conserve power, shut down the onboard computer that steered the craft. Yet the astronauts needed to conduct a **39 second burn** of the main engines. How to steer? Astronaut Jim Lovell determined that if they could **keep a fixed point in space in view** through their tiny window, they could steer the craft manually.
That focal point turned out to be their destination - Earth.

F. **Slide#13 Personal Lessons:** *Don't Fear Missing out on Worldly Fun.*

V. **Slide#14 [3] FAITH WAITS...IN MIDIAN (27)**

- A. **This story is told in Ex.2:14-22.** Moses withdraws to Midian.
- B. Admittedly he fled to save his life (Ex.2:14,15) because he feared the anger of the king/Pharaoh; *but* the writer of Hebrews goes **deeper** into the story.
 1. For Moses to withdraw to Midian was not an act of **fear**; it was an act of **courage**. **How?** It showed the **courage** of the man who has learned to **wait**.
 - a) *How long did he wait in Midian?* (40 years)
 2. During this time he continued to **see** the **unseen**, the **invisible realities**.
 - a) **Slide#15 Faith's eye saw**, what the **physical eye** is incapable of seeing.¹
 - b) **Christianity is to be lived supernaturally**. Remember when Elisha prayed for his servant, *O Lord, open his eyes so he may see* (see horses & see chariots of the Lord's army surrounding & protecting them)
- C. **Slide#16 Personal Lessons:** *Don't Fear Missing Your Opportunity.*
 1. This is what David's friends were saying to him in the cave. *David, this is your opportunity to take Saul's life & become king...like God told you you were.*
 2. **Are you big enough to wait until God says, now is the time/hour?**

¹ Kent Hughes, pg.120

- a) Slide#17 A. S. Peake said, “The courage to abandon work on which **one’s heart is set & accept inaction cheerfully** as the will of God, is of the rarest & highest kind, & can be created & sustained only by the **clearest spiritual vision.**”
3. “It is human to *fear to miss the chance*; but it is great to **wait for the time of God** – even when it seems like *throwing a chance away.*” [William Barclay]

VI. Slide#18 [4] FAITH OBEYS...GOD’S WORD (28)

- A. This story is told in Ex.12. *We leap frog over many years: Past* Moses’ confrontation with the new Pharaoh; *past* 9 plagues, to the 10th one; *to* the final & fateful night in Egypt, when Pharaoh finally, *let God’s people go.*
1. The *sprinkling of the blood* at **Passover** was upon **the door posts** of each Israelites household. “*The instructions strange; the demands costly; the ritual unprecedented.*”²
 2. This **act of faith** broke **the back of Pharaoh’s resistance** & the Egyptians begged the Israelites to leave.
- B. Slide#19 **Personal Lessons: Don’t Fear Looking Foolish.**
1. This week, Lar/Tony/Michelle/Jen & I took a course on Oral Inductive Bible Study. Using Bible stories & targeted questions to discover as a group the bible’s original intent. Any ways, Michelle told what an African pastor said, *We don’t fear looking silly in Africa. Only in the West do they care what they look like. Don’t Fear Looking Foolish*

VII. Slide#20 [5] FAITH MOVES...FORWARD (29)

- A. This story is told in Ex.14. This recounts the story of **faith** exercised by **Moses & Israel** *when the Egyptians* changed their minds & pursued Israel w/an army of chariots & soldiers.
- B. **Faith?** Moses had to tell them to *stand still (14:13), hold your peace (14) & go forward (15).*
1. But so often when we talk about **faith**, **God refuses to remember our lapses of faith & chooses only see only where our faith landed.**
 2. It still took took faith for the Israelites to *move forward.*
 - a) **An Arabian prince received a new sword**, he exclaimed, “This is too short!” to which came the reply, “*To a brave man no sword is too short. If it seems too short, simply take one step forward & it will be long enough.*” - It will also take faith for you to *move forward.*
- C. **Moses faith** was shown *when* he lifted his staff & held his hand over the sea for it to part.
- D. **Israel’s faith wasn’t until** they *passed through* the walls of water & arrived safely on the other shore. - *When does your faith kick in?*
1. **Faith** dares to obey despite apparent obstacles & difficulties.

² Raymond Brown (Adapted)

2. "It pays *no attention to impossibilities* when **God** has spoken." [Ray Stedman, pg.130]

E. **Slide#21 Personal Lessons:** *Don't Fear The Enemy.*

1. "The **business of life, the way of life, consists in getting over fences, not lying down & moaning on the other side!**"

F. **Wrap up:** In every critical stage in Moses' life, **faith** shaped him for his ultimate ministry. *His parents' initial faith saved his life (23). Growing up, faith led him to **throw in his lot** with the slave people of Israel **rather than** his adoptive royal family (24-26). Faith enabled him to **defy rather than** give into Pharaoh, remaining obedient to the heavenly King (26-27). Faith led Moses to command the people to **keep** the first Passover (28). And Faith led Moses to **walk** boldly into the Red Sea (29).*

1. **Faith Does** the Right Thing. **Faith Chooses** Affliction over Affluence.
Faith Waits in Midian. **Faith Obey's** God's Word. **Faith Moves** Forward.

G. So what was **the key** to Moses faith? Ex.33:11 *So the LORD spoke to Moses **face to face**, as a man speaks to his friend.*

1. **The Key?** was the close intimacy of his relationship w/God. **Moses knew God personally & intimately.** To every task Moses came out **from** God's presence.
a) It is told that before a great battle **Napoleon** would stand in his tent alone. He would send for his commanders to come to him, one by one. When they came in, he would **say no word but look them in the eye & shake their hand.** And they would go out ready to die for the general they **loved.**

2. *The secret of victorious living is to face God before we face men.*

H. **Communion:**

1. Bread -
2. Cup -