

Tusculum Hills Baptist Church  
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Sermon Title: By Faith Moses' Parents and Moses, Hebrews 11:23-29

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**INTRODUCTION:** Movies have been made about Moses. Documentaries and volumes of commentaries have been created about the life of Moses. I would say the majority of the world's population knows something about Moses.

I—like numerous children who listened to the Bible stories in Sunday School, who read the children's books, who watched the movies—I, like other children, stood many times at the side of a swimming pool, held up my arms, and commanded the waters to part. I failed each time. I threw down poles and expected them to become snakes, but it never happened.

As I got older, I gained a new appreciation for this man, Moses. I find myself on a much, much smaller scale facing decisions like he had to make. And, I find my faith is challenged and strengthened by God just like Moses, but on a much, much smaller scale.

Today, we are going to look at Moses as well as Moses' parents. And, I want point out four things in particular:

1. The faith of Moses' parents set the stage for the deliverance of the Hebrew people.
2. By faith, his parents realized he was not an ordinary child.
3. The faith of Moses' parents transferred to him!
4. God brought Moses to the point that he was ready to do whatever, whenever.

Read with me in Chapter 11, starting verse 23:

**SCRIPTURE:** Hebrews 11:23 <sup>23</sup> *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.*

I left off last week talking about Joseph. The casual reader of Hebrews 11 might think the scripture goes from Joseph to Moses, but you'll note there are people between Joseph and Moses... Who are they? They are Moses' parents.

## **First, THE FAITH OF MOSES' PARENTS SET THE STAGE FOR THE DELIVERANCE OF THE HEBREW PEOPLE.**

**EXPLANATION:** Their faith was demonstrated by how they ignored the king of Egypt. During Joseph's time, the Hebrew people settled in Egypt, but years later, there was a new leader who did not know Joseph—probably some foreign conqueror.

This new leader had enslaved the Hebrew people, and he feared they would become large enough to overtake his kingdom. So, he ordered the midwives to kill every newborn boy. The midwives did not do it.

Then he ordered all newborn boys to be cast into the river.

There were a few problems with this:

1. Exodus 1:12 says the more they were afflicted, the more they multiplied.
2. God had promised Abraham the number of his descendants would be greater than the number of stars in the sky.
3. God later told Joseph to go to Egypt, where he'd make the people a great nation.

The problem was: The king of Egypt was not going to stop God's plans.

And, then Moses was born. His parents had a baby despite the requirement of the king. *"By faith, they hid him for three months."* Moses was born at the height of the slaughter of boys. This is the story of Christ years later... about his survival despite King Herod's decree that all Jewish boys be killed.

I like what a Christian writer named Arthur Pink wrote: “Faith is the spiritual grace which enables its possessor to look away from human terrors, and confide in an unseen God.”

A person might ask, since Moses was going to be the deliverer of his people, then why wasn't he born more like a king. I have an answer to that: It's because God seems to delight in taking the most fragile situations and turning them into something great! Think about it. Jesus was born in a humble manger, and we are here to worship him today. Moses was born in a humble family, and he became a great emancipator and leader.

### **Second, BY FAITH, HIS PARENTS REALIZED HE WAS NOT AN ORDINARY CHILD.**

**EXPLANATION:** I spent some time studying this sentence, and here's what I learned. Every parent wants to believe their newborn child is no ordinary child. Every parent wants to believe their new baby is special. Every parent believes they have the most beautiful child. But, there is more to this than the typical parent's infatuation with their new child.

You see, Moses father, Amram, was a Levite. He would have known the revelation of God that had been given up to this point in history. As a Levite, he would have had special insight into spiritual things. He would have been prayerful, and he would have sought the Lord in all ways. Realizing he was not an ordinary child meant they knew something others didn't know. Inside the meaning of the original language and the spirit of the story is that his parents noticed something divine about their son.

Moses was placed in a basket and put in the river. He was found by Pharaoh's daughter, and Moses' sister volunteered that she knew a woman who could nurse Moses. That woman happened to be her mother and Moses' mother as well. Here we have a complete family faith dynamic at work. Pharaoh commanded Hebrew boys be thrown into the river, but from the river came their deliverer.

### **Third, THE FAITH OF MOSES' PARENTS TRANSFERRED TO HIM!**

**SCRIPTURE:** Hebrews 11:24-26 <sup>24</sup> *By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. <sup>25</sup> He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. <sup>26</sup> 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.*

**EXPLANATION:** Moses returned to be one of his people. He suffered with them in their slavery. Verse 26 is interesting because it introduces Christ into the life of Moses many years before Christ came. Moses prophesied about a Messiah, and verse 26 indicates to us Moses had a healthy perspective on the future. Instead of being completely enthralled with the wealth of Egypt, he left it all for the sake of Christ. Now, I challenge you to take that verse and study it some more.

How did Moses do this? *By faith!* *By faith* he refused to be the son of Pharaoh's daughter. *By faith* he chose to be mistreated like his own people. *By faith* he let go of the riches of Egypt. *By faith* he looked ahead to his reward.

**SCRIPTURE:** Hebrews 11: 27-28 <sup>27</sup> *By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. <sup>28</sup> By faith he kept the Passover and the application of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.*

**EXPLANATION:** By now, Moses' faith was strong enough that he no longer feared the king of Egypt.

He had a holy fear of God that trumped any fear of a man.

God worked through Moses to bring ten plagues upon Egypt, yet each time, the Hebrew people were spared. The last plague was the death of the firstborn. The Hebrew people applied blood from a lamb around their doors, and the death angel passed them over. *All of it was by faith.*

**SCRIPTURE:** Hebrews 11:29 <sup>29</sup> *By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.*

And, now we come to the part of the sermon that can go in one of several directions. We can talk about the conclusion, the summary, or as people say today,

the takeaway. What is the takeaway of today's message? Here it is: God challenged Moses' faith to the point that he would do whatever, whenever. This is a big statement, so let me say it again: God challenged Moses' faith to the point that Moses would do whatever, whenever.

And, we see the pattern in which God challenged and strengthened his faith. Small steps of faith later became giant leaps of faith.

Let me review, and then I want to talk some more about faith:

- The faith of Moses' parents set the stage for the deliverance of the Hebrew people.
- By faith, his parents realized he was not an ordinary child.
- The faith of Moses' parents transferred to him!

#### **Fourth, GOD BROUGHT MOSES TO THE POINT THAT HE WAS READY TO DO WHATEVER, WHENEVER.**

**APPLICATION:** If you've been a believer in Jesus Christ for a long time, you should be well past taking baby steps of faith. You do understand that God's desire for his children is to live a life of faith, always taking a step of faith. And, if you are a long time believer, then you should be taking new steps of faith on a regular basis.

Moses' life of faith demonstrates to us there is no retirement plan for God's children. You will never be able to say, "I've retired from the faith plan. I've taken all the steps of faith I will ever take." If you are God's child, you won't have a choice in the matter. I want to ask, what would it take for you to be where God took Moses spiritually? What would it take for you, like Moses would do: whatever, whenever?

Don't we all have a lot of work to do? I think back to my life as the boy at the edge of the swimming pool trying to part the water, and then I realize how glad I am that I'm not Moses. But, then again, he only had one Moses, just like he has only one of me and only one of you. And, he works with each of us in different ways, doesn't he?

If you're a new believer, you should be taking small steps of faith, which will increase your faith. If you've been a believer for a long time, then you should be well past baby steps. You should be taking adult steps of faith. You see, the life of Moses proves to us that there is no retirement plan when it comes to faith. You'll never be able to say, "I've taken all the steps of faith I am going take." The reason is because God won't let it happen, if you are a growing Christian. He'll keep challenging and strengthening your faith until the day he takes you home to be with him.

Some of you have been through personal crises and major life ordeals. When I've just come through a difficult time, I'll say, "I certainly hope I learned what God wanted me to learn though all that, because I don't want to go through it again."

The more we learn to have faith in God, in spite of the circumstances, the more patient and more content we will be...I believe this. I've experienced it.

What would it take for your life to be where Moses' was? – *Lord, whatever you want me to do I'll do it, and wherever you want me to go, I'll go there.* People say this naively, and then they don't want to do it because the cost seems too high.

**ILLUSTRATION:** I remember a man who used to come to my office and talk about his dream of getting a theological education. He was fascinated with the thought of packing up and moving the family. He just couldn't rationalize how he could manage to do it. He asked me how people do this, to which I replied, "They just do." And, then one day, when he'd done all the planning on his end that he could do, he uprooted his family from the security zone and went to school.

**CALL TO ACTION:** Some of you are on the verge of taking a step of faith right now. It may seem more like a leap of faith to you. If you believe God is calling you to take that step of faith— then take it. Don't analyze it forever. Just take it.

*Lord, we know our faith needs to be strengthened. We know we are weak and that you desire for us to become stronger. Help us with our puny ideas and ways. Help us to be people of faith so that a world lost without Christ can see our faith.*

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I use the NIV translation of scripture because of its conversational nature. Feel free to go to Bible Gateway and copy and paste whichever translation you want to use. This transcript has been edited to an outline format that improves readability and therefore may not exactly follow the video edition.

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