

Pentecost 14  
Hebrews 11:24-28  
September 6, 2009

Fame, pleasure, money, power were a temptation for Moses. On the other hand, to avoid mistreatment and disgrace was also a temptation. Nothing's changed. These temptations are still around to trouble us today. Satan uses them. Our sinful nature promotes them. The world has bought into them. The goal of all these temptations is to separate us from being God's people, hence to separate us from Jesus Christ. These verses about Moses teach us to

Look to the Future for our Present by Faith.

First, let's consider fame, pleasure, wealth and power in regard to our future in Christ by faith.

Certainly, Moses could have had it "all." For years, he had lived in a palace, like the son of Pharaoh's daughter, like a prince. That in itself came with fame. The word 'sin' is attached to the word pleasures here. So, the pleasure spoken of here was not innocent enjoyment. Even some forms of Egypt's idolatrous worship involved gross violation of the 6<sup>th</sup> Commandment, as well as the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Commandments, of course.

But Moses' earliest years were entirely different. He was born at a time when Egypt's Pharaoh had ordered infanticide for all of Israel's baby boys. Moses' parents understood about obeying God rather than men – as Peter later expressed it when men command what goes clearly against what God wants. Moses' mother was smart. She worked it out so that Pharaoh's daughter found Moses in a water-tight basket floating in the Nile. God worked it out by blessing the mother's plan, so that Moses spent his first years with his mother and father. They took the religious instruction of Moses seriously. Moses knew he was a member of the people of God. He knew the promises God had made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, especially the promise of a Savior from sin, death, and the devil for all people. All this, God, through the truth Moses had been taught, had planted deep in Moses' heart. It was faith in Christ in his heart.

I know it is next Sunday when we will draw attention to Christian Ed, but with Moses, we dare not miss seeing how critically important it was that Moses' parents taught their children all about the promised Savior according to God's revelation. It kept Moses connected to our Savior Jesus and to His people. The Christian instruction of your children is critical to their eternity!

When Moses reached maturity, both Exodus, Acts 7, and Hebrews 11 tells us that Moses rejected the fame, pleasure, wealth and power offered by the Egyptian royal family and elected to be a part of the people of God.

Moses rejected, Moses said, "No" to the temptation to forsake Christ and His people in order to have temporary pleasure. Note the word temporary. The world would have

thought, still thinks, that to have fame, wealth, pleasure and power is to have it "all." If that is all, one actually has nothing after a little while. It will end up an eternity with nothing but punishment.

By the age of 40, Moses has clearly determined not to be regarded as a prince of Egypt. He wanted to remain one of God's people. He trusted in, had faith in the Christ, the Promised Savior. Moses figured then already that he could somehow help Israel. But he took things into his own hands. It was a fiasco! Most painful of all according to Exodus and Stephen in Acts 7, his own people rejected him. He spent the next 40 years in Midian, got married, raised a couple boys and expected to finish out his days as a sheep herder. Moses long had given up all notions of being able to help Israel. He had no intention ever of going back. But then it was that God could use Moses. God was about to keep His promise to Abraham that God would bring Abraham's descendants out of the foreign land to the land of Canaan, where one day the Savior of the world would be born from Israel.

Moses had been content in Midian with no fame, wealth, sinful pleasure or power. He looked forward like Abel and Noah and Abraham before him to the city with real foundations, to the city of God eternal.

But now Moses future in Christ kicked in again also in regard to mistreatment and disgrace.

Who ever would choose mistreatment and disgrace for oneself? It doesn't seem to make sense. But that's what Moses did. It even says Moses saw mistreatment and disgrace as with more than all the treasure of Egypt. What sense does this make?

Add the words "people of God" to the word mistreatment. Add the word 'Christ' to the word 'disgrace.' God's people were the slaves! The rulers, the masters were the idolaters. The promised Savior would be disgraced and any tie to Him surely will bring disgrace to His people in this earthly life.

Please, let us learn that such mistreatment and disgrace are of very great value to us. By these things, God means to free all of His people from their sinful selves. By persecution and trouble, God aims to tie us more and more tightly to Jesus as we see the awful hatred of Satan, sin and the world for us. Let us keep learning that mistreatment with God's people and the disgrace of Christ is not only to be endured but valued. Let us see honor in it. It is to be like our Savior and Lord! It assures us that we are following Jesus on our way to that future, great reward.

It is a reward that none of us has earned or deserved. Jesus earned it for us. It is a gift paid for by Jesus. But that is what makes it so sure, so permanent. Jesus is our God. He is eternal.

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And so let's say "No" to every temptation. They aim to separate us from being members of the people of God, aim to separate us from our Jesus, our Savior from slavery to sin, death, satan, and hell. By faith we see the value of mistreatments as God's people, the value of disgrace with Christ! By faith, we fellowship with Jesus, our Passover Lamb, whose blood has saved us from eternal death and washed our sin away. By faith, we look forward to eternal life in heaven, just like Moses did. Amen.