

There was something different about him. Sure, in many ways, he was like the other Egyptian kids who grew up in Pharaoh's household. He was given many of the same opportunities. He received a top-notch education. He lived a life of luxury, of ease, and comfort. He experienced earthly blessings that the vast majority of the people would have dreamed of. Yet, there was something different about this guy, this man named Moses.

You might remember what was different about him from last week's sermon. Pastor Krause preached on the birth of Moses and how he ended up in Pharaoh's household. He was a Hebrew baby born to parents who did everything they could to protect him. See, the Egyptians had enslaved the Hebrews, the Israelites, and to keep them in check, Pharaoh ordered that every Hebrew male born should be killed. But you also heard how the Lord kept Moses safe, and how Pharaoh's own daughter discovered Moses in a basket in the Nile River and ended up adopting him. Eventually, he would be brought to Pharaoh's household. There he received training and instruction. From a baby in a basket to a child in Pharaoh's household, his future now looked bright.

But there was something different about him, and Moses knew it. He actually spent the first few years of his life in parents' household, and perhaps they continued to have contact with him afterwards, but it was clear in Moses' mind that he was different. It was more than that he looked different than the other kids in Pharaoh's household. It was more than simply he came from a different group of people. Moses understood that the faith of the Hebrews, their faith in the Lord and his faith, was entirely at odds with the Egyptians and their worship of false gods. It was odds with how the Egyptians had enslaved and mistreated the Israelites. Certainly, it would've been tempting for him to ignore that. It would've been tempting for him to live his life in luxury and ease and blend in with the Egyptians. But there was something different about him.

Jesus has called his followers – he's called you and me – to be different than how the world lives. I'm not saying that he calls us to go off into the woods and remove ourselves from the world and from society. He calls us to live and act in a different way than how the world lives and acts. When people look at your life, do they see that? Do they see someone who's different? When they see your posts on social media, do they see someone who displays humility and kindness, or do they see someone who flies off the handle and gets angry? When people see you at work, do they see someone who goes out of their way to help others, or do they see someone who's selfish uncooperative, and unhelpful? When you examine your life, do you see someone who tries simply to blend in with the world even when it means hiding your faith? When you examine your priorities, do you find that your earthly blessings end up higher on the list than your faith in Jesus and growing in your faith through his Word?

It would've been easier for Moses to simply go about his business. It would've been easier for him to hide his faith and pretend he was like everyone else. Truth be told, it would be easier for us to do the same. To not be different. It would be easier to live our lives with no mention of our faith. It would be easier to blend in and conceal our faith. It would be easier to simply live our lives, to eat, drink, and be merry.

There's a word in our lesson that reminds us why that's not a good way to live. The word is "fleeting". Or we might think of the word "temporary." The idea is that the enjoyments of life last only "for a time." Moses understood very well that what the Egyptians had to offer might have seemed appealing from a worldly point of view – he could have had a life of ease, comfort, entertainment, authority, and power. But all those things are fleeting. They're only for a time. They're here today and fly away tomorrow.

How much don't we need that reminder! There's nothing wrong with enjoying earthly blessings from the Lord, if you remember they're temporary gifts that the Lord gives us. But there's a part of us that craves for and longs for those earthly blessings in a way that puts them ahead of our faith and ahead of the Lord. We long for those things that last only for a time. We long for popularity. We long for recognition. We long for status. We long for enjoyment. We long for ease and comfort. Do those things come at the expense of our faith? Do those things ever end up leading us to hide our faith? Do those things ever take our eyes away from what we have in Christ to what the world can give us today? But all those things – they're fleeting. They're temporary. They're only for a time.

So, Moses, knowing that surrounding himself in that lifestyle would harm him spiritually, he left. He gave up money. He gave up power. He gave up ease and comfort. **By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. 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.**

Remarkable, isn't it? Until we remember what we have in Christ. Moses left that life behind because it was clear that Pharaoh had contempt for the Lord and for the people whom the Lord had chosen. Moses realized that the suffering and death of the coming Savior was far more important than all the treasures Egypt could provide. So, he leaves Pharaoh's household. He goes and he visits his people. Unfortunately, the first thing Moses does is he ends up killing an Egyptian who was mistreating an Israelite. He at the time afraid of being caught ends up fleeing to a region called Midian. And there one day, God ends up calling Moses to go back to Egypt, to confront Pharaoh, and to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. At that time, Moses is worried and scared to go, but he goes back. By the power of the Holy Spirit, he confronts Pharaoh with confidence and leads his people out of slavery. No longer afraid. No longer worried what would happen to him but recognizing what he had in Christ. **By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.**

What do you have in Christ? You have things that the world just doesn't see. But you have things that are worth more than all the money in the world. You have the promise through the suffering and death of Christ, your sin has been removed as far as the east is from the west. You have the promise that whether you have good days on earth or challenging days, in Christ you have a treasure in heaven that will never perish, spoil, or fade. That your reward is in Christ that one day you will live in perfect peace and joy in heaven – not something you could ever earn but a gift of God's grace. Right now, you stand forgiven and blameless in the eyes of God through Jesus. This is what led the Apostle Paul to write: **I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord** (Philippians 3:8).

The proof God gives? We see it in our lesson. **By faith he kept the Passover and the application of blood, so that the destroyed of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.** It was very odd for Moses and the Israelites to put blood on their doorposts. But through the blood of lambs, God would rescue and save them and save them from death. Through the blood of a lamb, God has done that for you too. God would send his own Son to be the lamb whose blood would save you from sin and death. Because of that, you have a treasure the world cannot give – you have peace with your God. The proof God gives? An empty cross on which the Lamb of God bled and died for you and an empty tomb where he no longer lies.

When we dwell on that, doesn't that lead us to be different? I'm not saying that we should be weird or that we should remove ourselves from the world. God has placed us in different callings, different situations to be his witness in this world. So how can you be different? How can you show people you know that the most important thing in your life is knowing Christ and his saving love? How can you show people that his grace, his suffering and death, have changed you...not in a holier than thou sort of way...but a way that shows people your brokenness because of sin but that also the peace you have knowing the One who has suffered and died for those sins? What can you do to be different? To be selfless instead of selfish? To be encouraging instead of tearing people down? To be compassionate instead of vengeful? To be humble instead of prideful? To show this fallen world that the Savior's love is unlike anything they've experienced?

There's something different about you. By God's grace, you know that it has nothing to do with your intelligence, your looks, your skills and abilities, your popularity, or the number of friends you have on Facebook, but it has everything to do with your Savior. Jesus through his grace has made you different. And so be different. Amen.