

What Are You Looking At?

Other than Jesus, Moses is the most well-known person from the Bible.

- Moses is a key figure in Christianity, known for his role as a prophet, lawgiver, and leader in the Bible.

Heb. 11:24-26 “It was by faith that Moses, when he grew up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. ²⁵ He chose to share the oppression of God’s people instead of enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin. ²⁶ He thought it was better to suffer for the sake of Christ than to own the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to his great reward.”

Exodus 2 begins the story of Moses being born, recognition there was a special calling upon his life, his fleeing into the desert to escape Pharaoh’s wrath and his encounter with Yahweh.

Ex 2: indicates Moses sided with his own people – Israel rather than the Egyptians who had raised him.

The author of Hebrews notes several traits of Moses:

- He refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter – he embraced his true identity.
- He chose to suffer affliction with his own people [the people of God]
- Rather than indulge in the sinful pleasures the Egyptian lifestyle could offer him.
- He placed a greater value [esteemed] the reproach of Christ as greater riches than the treasures of Egypt: for he had respect for the value of the reward.

This was no small deal:

Moses was second in command of the world’s superpower of the day –

History through the Jewish historian Josephus accounts for Moses nobility:

“The importance of Pharaoh's daughter comes to importance because Egyptian royal succession went, not through the male line, but through the female line. This historical oddity derives from Egyptian mythology, in which Isis, the sister of Osiris, marries her brother, and from them descends the royal line. The Pharaohs continued this incestuous practice of the crown prince marrying the Pharaoh's firstborn daughter, and the prince's claim to legitimacy as the future Pharaoh, hinged on his marriage to her. Their son, in turn, would be the new crown prince, also known as "the son of Pharaoh's daughter."

This makes God's orchestration of events when Pharaoh's daughter found Moses in the Nile significant. He guided Moses' ark of bulrushes directly to the Egyptian kingmaker! As Pharaoh's daughter, it was in her power to name Moses as the next Pharaoh, because he was her son by adoption. She could say, "He was born of the Nile. He was a gift from the gods," and seal his legitimacy via his miraculous appearance to her.

Thus, Moses was in the position to rule all of Egypt. This makes his sacrifice of Hebrews 11:24, "refusing to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter," all the more remarkable. As Egypt was the most powerful nation on earth at the time, he gave up the world's premier position of authority to lead God's people—a nation of a few million slaves—to the Promised Land.”

If you were in that situation, how would you handle yourself?

- Moses could have just “played along” and lived a life of luxury, fame, and renown.
- He would have never known rejection, hardship, having to put up with over 3 million rebellious slaves to freedom who were most uncooperative with God’s plan for their freedom.

But Moses chose to suffer with the afflictions of his people and the call of God on his life to choose the hard path.

- He esteemed [held as more valuable] the reward the Lord had for him and his people than a life of personal ease.
- The reason Moses could choose that was because his God given destiny was more important to him than all Egypt had to offer.

It would appear Moses was losing it all, but he looked beyond that and had “**respect**” to his reward – Heb 11:26

“Respect” “To turn the eyes away from other things and fix them on one thing.”

- Moses looked away from everything else except his reward.
- He refused to sit down, and dwell on all the things he was giving up.
- He became single minded on what God had promised him.

Choosing God’s ways will always bring you to a greater place than our own interests:

The entire world knows who Moses is because he made the choice to follow God's path for his life.

When you and I choose God's ways, it will always work out better in the end.

But our problem is we say: "Lord, if I do what You're asking me to do, I'll have to give up something; this _____ or that _____."

Your choice to make the decision to follow God's ways is based on your **Value System!**

- What do you place value on, what are your priorities in life?

If your life is going to have eternal meaning and purpose, you must come to the place where you look away from anything except the Lord.

- Jesus Christ/Yeshua must become all you want.
- You will have to discipline yourself to look beyond the **temporal values** of this life and world and fix your focus on the **eternal values** of the Kingdom of God.
- These are the only values that will last for eternity.

Phil 3:7-8 "I once thought these things [education, status, accomplishments] were valuable, but now I consider/**count** them worthless because of what Christ has done. ⁸Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ."

- Paul was one of the most brilliant young minds of his day.
- He was an up-and-coming Rabbi of Israel having studied under the tutelage of Gamaliel, a leading Rabbi of the day.

"Count" same Greek word used in Heb. 11:26 for "**esteeming**," where the Bible says that Moses esteemed the persecution that came with serving God as greater riches than all of Egypt's treasures.

Paul's attitude was "all in" for Jesus and the Kingdom of God.

What he physically suffered for taking the Gospel to the known world of his day was incredible.

His statement: "For me to live is Christ, to die is gain." Phil.1:21 is a testament to his death to self.

You couldn't kill Paul because you can't kill a dead man!

Any person who ever did anything for God, glorified Him and put more value and worth on what God's will was for their life.

They simply loved God more than they loved themselves – that’s the KEY!

Jesus said:

Matthew 6:24

“No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.”

- This teaching on the inadvisability of trying to serve two masters comes at the end of a line of comparisons between two major elements of life:
- Earlier, He had spoken about two diverse kinds of treasure, the earthly kind and the heavenly kind.
- He mentioned the good eye and the bad eye, or it would be clearer to call them the focused ("single,") eye and the confused eye, which illustrate a person's outlook on his life.
- Jesus is trying to help us see the dichotomy between God's way and the way of this world, man's way, or Satan's way.
- He moves to human will, telling us that it is impossible to give full allegiance to more than one entity.
- One's true loyalty will soon be revealed when circumstances conspire to force a choice between them.
- At the crucial moment of decision - we will choose to give our time and attention to the one that we really love, and the other we will "hate" by comparison.

Rejecting Worldly Temptations

- As followers of Christ, we are called to be in the world but not of it. This means while we live our lives in this world, we must reject its temptations that can lead us away from God.

The Bible guides us on how we can resist these temptations and choose God’s way instead:

1 John 2:15-17 “Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.”

James 4:4 “You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.”

Galatians 6:14 “May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”

Romans 12:2 “Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Living Out Our Faith Boldly

Choosing God over the world requires us to live out our faith boldly. It involves standing firm in our beliefs even amidst difficulties or when faced with societal pressures. This boldness is essential in showing others the love of God through our actions and words. We are reminded to be light in darkness and to proclaim God’s truth fearlessly.

Matthew 5:14 “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.”

2 Timothy 1:7 “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and of a sound mind.”

Acts 4:29 “Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.”

Colossians 3:23 “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.”

Hebrews 10:23 “Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.”

Living a Life of Sacrifice

Choosing God over the world often entails sacrifice. We need to set aside our own desires, comforts, or even relationships that stray us from God’s path.

Jesus exemplified this sacrificial love, and we are called to follow His example.

Luke 9:23 “Then he said to them all: ‘Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow Me.’”

Romans 12:1 “I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.”

Galatians 2:20 “I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”