

MOSES

A Man of Selfless Dedication

STUDY TWENTY

Moses' Faith, Moses' Choices . . . and Me

Hebrews 11:24–28

There is no monument to Moses in Egypt, not even an inscription that bears his name. Egypt has forgotten him, but he's honored in heaven. Moses gave up earthly accolades for the eternal reward.

—Pastor Charles R. Swindoll

LIFE is like a road trip. Eventually, we all come to a fork in the road and must choose one way or the other. Which direction will we go?

Our concluding *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study on the life of Moses takes us back to the time when Moses reached such a fork in his life's journey. Moses was still living in Pharaoh's palace as the adopted son of an Egyptian princess. He had reached an age in which merging his identities was no longer possible. He had come to a decision point at adulthood's fork in the road, and he had to choose whether to live as an Egyptian or a Hebrew.

One road was paved with golden opportunities afforded only to the Egyptian royal class. The other road was rutted with the hardships of the Hebrew enslaved class. Moses couldn't have it both ways. He had to choose one or the other.

Imagine Moses' inner conflict. His speech, appearance, upbringing, and culture were thoroughly Egyptian. But he was born a Hebrew. *Egyptian without, Hebrew within.* Which identity would he embrace?

The writer of the New Testament book of Hebrews offers a unique inside look at Moses' decision-making process. We all come to a fork in the road on our life's journey and must decide between the world's road or God's road. Which will we choose? Moses can point the way.



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PREPARE YOUR HEART

In prayer, ask the Lord to strengthen your faith in God through your study of His Word.



TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES

As an Egyptian prince, Moses enjoyed a cushioned life. In his biography of Moses, F. B. Meyer describes the perks:

The cream of [Egypt] was poured into the cup of Moses. He was brought up in the palace and treated as the grandson of Pharaoh. If he rode forth into the streets, it would be in a princely equipage, amid the cries of “Bow the knee.” If he floated on the Nile, it would be in a golden barge, amid the strains of voluptuous music. If he wished for [anything], the almost illimitable wealth of the treasures of Egypt was within his reach.¹

And yet, Moses gave up all these luxuries and honors. To discover the reasons, let's turn to the hall-of-faith chapter of Hebrews 11, where the portraits of Israel's greatest heroes hang. The section on Moses highlights three faith decisions that Moses made when he left the Egyptian life behind.



Observation: Three Risky Decisions

Observation looks for key words and phrases in the text that guide the flow of thought.² Let's identify the principles that guided Moses' choice.

Refusal to Sustain the Sinful—Hebrews 11:24–26

What motivation led Moses to “[refuse] to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter” in [Hebrews 11:24](#)? When did he make this decision? What did Moses forfeit by renouncing his sonship?

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Read *Hebrews 11:25–26* and, in the chart below, write down the alternatives Moses considered. What would happen if he followed God as a Hebrew? What Egyptian privileges would he give up?

A Follower of God	An Egyptian Prince

How could Moses “suffer for the sake of Christ” when Jesus had not yet come? In *interpretation*, we’ll explore the answers to this question. For now, note that Moses focused on the long term, not the short term. He was *thinking ahead*. That’s the idea behind the word *considering* (*Hebrews 11:26 NASB*). Moses looked beyond Egypt’s temporary pleasures to the eternal rewards God promised. His actions illustrate the definition of faith—hoping in “things we cannot see” and not the things of this world (11:1).

Moses was a man of integrity. He came to a fork in the road, and before he could turn right or left, he took a position on the basic issues of life: morality, godliness, commitment. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

Determination to Leave the Familiar—*Hebrews 11:27*

Moses’ faith guided his decision to refuse Egyptian pleasures, and then his faith gave him the determination to do what, according to *Hebrews 11:27*?

That decision took backbone—“not fearing the king’s anger” (11:27)—and *vision*. What internal heading kept Moses moving in the right direction, according to *11:27b*?

Conviction, faith, determination, courage, and vision. These qualities formed the sinew of Moses’ character muscles, which he flexed in obedience to God’s commands.

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Willingness to Do the Unusual—Hebrews 11:28

What command did Moses obey and tell the Israelites to obey, according to [Hebrews 11:28](#)?

Let's face it, the Passover instructions were unusual. Moses had never performed religious rites like these. Bake bread “without yeast” (Exodus 12:8). Smear lamb's blood “on the sides and top of the doorframes” (12:7). Eat hastily with “your walking stick in your hand” (12:11). Everything about the meal was strange to Moses. Faith usually goes against the grain of the world—like Noah building an ark without a cloud in the sky or Sarah knitting baby booties well beyond her childbearing years.

How many times does the phrase “by faith” appear in [Hebrews 11:24–28](#)? In your own words, write down how Moses acted by faith through these risky decisions.

Having taken a position concerning his walk with the Lord, Moses took off the headgear of Pharaoh, set aside all the prerogatives that were his to enjoy, and chose to live with the people of God. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll



Interpretation: Suffering for the Sake of Christ

The alternatives set before Moses were clear—“Christ” or “the treasures of Egypt” (Hebrews 11:26). But how could Moses know about Christ?

The Greek word for *Christ* means “anointed one” and is a reference to the Messiah—a concept that first appears in [Genesis 3:15](#) as the woman's future “offspring.” Read this verse to find the messianic prophecy that God revealed to Moses. What basic understanding of the coming Messiah would Moses have had?

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In Moses' blood flowed the hope of the Messiah, who was a treasure more valuable than all the "treasures of Egypt" and worth preserving—even through suffering (Hebrews 11:26).

Summarize the reasons Moses chose the rugged way instead of the easy way. What was the main faith principle the writer to the Hebrews intended Moses' example to teach?

Moses had never been to Canaan. He knew only Egypt, but he left it. Why? Because of faith. God led him out. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll



Correlation: Following the Way of Suffering

What did Jesus teach about the suffering His disciples should expect in [Matthew 5:11–12](#)? What was worth suffering for? What did Jesus offer to those who follow Him?

Jesus taught His disciples that suffering for His sake leads to life:

"If you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?" (Matthew 16:25–26)

In what ways did Moses' life illustrate this principle? How do Moses' decisions inspire you in your walk with Christ?

If you could emulate any Bible character, be like Moses. Consider what he gave up and what he received in return. A monument in Egypt? Much better: a reward in heaven. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

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Application: How about You?

Two roads stretched before Moses. He could follow the Egyptian way and live like a prince. Or he could follow the way of the Hebrews and live as a servant.

When you think about it, Moses' choice is the same choice we face. There are always only two roads before us: the heavily trafficked way to Egypt and the less-traveled road to heaven. To travel the road of faith means making some weighty decisions. Here are some road signs to point you in the right direction.

First, to have the discernment to refuse the fleeting pleasures of sin, *faith must overshadow your feelings*. Feelings come and go with the tide, but faith anchors you to what is right and true. Have feelings tugged you in a direction you know is wrong? How can faith take the helm?

Second, to have the determination to leave the familiar, *faith must be your security*. Only when Moses shifted his security to God could he leave behind the only life he knew. Are you faced with a decision to leave the familiar? What does it mean to let faith in God be your security?

Third, to have the discipline to do the unusual, *faith must silence your critics*. When you live according to Christ's moral standard, then you will be persecuted. How can your faith in Him shield you when attacks come?

Moses didn't exchange his life in the palace for life in the wilderness on a whim. No, he searched his soul. He thought deeply and prayed fervently. Only then did he decide which road to follow.

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Are you at a decision point in your life? As you conclude your study of Moses, reflect on Peter's words as they echo the life of Moses. Lift your heart to the Lord who chose you and delivered you from bondage to serve Him and follow Him wherever He might lead.

You are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. (1 Peter 2:9)



A FINAL PRAYER

Father, give me the faith of Moses, who refused the pleasures of sin, left the familiar to follow You, and obeyed Your commands. Better is suffering for the sake of Christ than all the treasures of this world. Keep my eyes on You and your great reward in heaven. Keep me faithful in my journey. In Christ's name, amen.

ENDNOTES

1. F. B. Meyer, *Moses: The Servant of God* (New York: Fleming H. Revell, 1894), 19.
2. To learn more about Pastor Chuck Swindoll's *Searching the Scriptures* Bible-study method, go to the web page, "[How Does Pastor Chuck Swindoll Study the Bible?](#)"

For the 2024–2025 broadcasts, this *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study was developed by Bryce Klabunde, vice president of *Searching the Scriptures* Ministries, based upon the original outlines, charts, and transcripts of Charles R. Swindoll's messages. Copyright © 1975, 2024 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.

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