

MOSES' WISE CHOICE

"By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to share ill treatment with the people of God, than to have temporary pleasure from sin; accounting the reproach of the Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he looked unto the recompense of reward."
Hebrew 11:24-26

This text introduces us to one of the grandest characters. The greatest event in his life is recorded in the text. This single choice shaped his whole after life. Moses had in a marked degree those three absolutely essential qualities to success: talent, ambition, and energy.

I. The Circumstances of His Choice

Born of a despised race, that then were in captivity in Egypt; doomed to destruction; saved by the shrewdness and love of his mother; adopted into the family of the royal house; reared as a prince; educated to the last degree of knowledge that then was attainable; with a mind peculiarly fitted to take on education, he stood apparently upon the threshold of all the things that men most desire in this world. There was nothing:--

That wealth could give that he could not have

In pleasure that was not accessible to him

In position, honor, and government that was not open to him.

The momentous ^{hour} had come to him. His education was completed; his powers fully matured; his age was about forty; his hour of decision and destiny had come and he is at the forks of the road. He had to decide whether he would identify himself with the suffering race who were his kindred, and whose cause was the cause of righteousness and mercy; or whether he would choose to rank on the side of their oppressors, with whom, in upbringing and position, he was already associated. Moses did not act rashly or unadvisedly in his choice. He stood at the forks of the road, looked at both roads, and to one of them he spoke a positive, vigorous, out and out "NO". He did something more than just refuse to take that one road. He chose to travel the other road. He deliberately refused:--

1. To be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter
2. To identify himself with the people of Egypt
3. To sanction their policy of oppressing the Hebrews
4. To continue in the service of the court.

He chose to throw in his lot with his people, and surrendered all the splendor of Egypt and the prospects it offered him in order to do so. He refused a life of luxury, and chose a life of poverty. He refused ease and chose hardship. He refused a throne and chose the life of a servant.

II. The Cost Of His Choice

1. He had to give up:---

- (1) High social position
- (2) The pleasures of Egypt
- (3) The treasures of Egypt
- (4) All the wishes of the princess concerning him
- (5) The gratification of human ambition
- (6) A life of ease

2. He had to:

- (1) Suffer affliction with the people of God
- (2) Encounter many dangers in delivering them from bondage, and leading them to liberty
- (3) Flee for his life and endure forty years exile

III. The Consequences Of His Choice:

Because of this choice Moses gained:---

1. A Christlike character
2. The favor of God
3. The liberty of his people
4. A life of highest usefulness
5. A blessing for all mankind
6. The riches of heaven

He did these things by faith. Faith was the force which kept him alive; faith bore him onward; faith inspired him upward; and faith exalted him gloriously.