

MOSES' PARENTS' FAITH: A LOVING, FEARLESS FAITH HEBREWS 11:23

Introduction

The parents of Moses are an excellent example of an unknown married couple who had great faith in God. They were just common, ordinary folk within their community, yet they believed God and had a strong faith in Him. Their faith stands as a dynamic example of a loving, fearless faith.

- I. A faith that obeyed their hearts (v. 23).
- II. A faith that was fearless despite opposition (v. 23).

I. *Hebrews 11:23 Faith that Obeys the Heart*

The parents of Moses had a faith that obeyed their hearts. What happened was this. Generation after generation had passed since Joseph, Jacob and his sons had gone down to Egypt and settled in the land of Goshen, Egypt. The people, the Israelites, had reproduced so much that they had become a large nation of people, so large that the new king of Egypt felt threatened by them. This was when Israel became slaves to the Egyptians. The king, who did not know Joseph, took the initial step of enslaving them, thinking that he could slow down their reproduction through slavery (Exo. 1:8). However, the children of Israel continued to multiply rather rapidly, and the king felt more and more threatened. Finally he decided to wipe them out by having all newborn sons killed at birth. This cruel plot was made the law of the land (cp. Exo. 1:21-22).

This is the background of what led Moses' parents to do what they did. Unquestionably, they loved God and loved their newborn child whom they named Moses. Their action shows this.

Kenneth Wuest points out that the words "no ordinary" (*asteion*) mean "comely to God." Wuest says, "he was comely with respect to God" (*Hebrews*, Vol. 2, p. 205). That is, God had His hand upon Moses and apparently his parents realized it.

One thing is sure: the parents knew that if all the male children were killed, then the *promised seed* and *promised land* of God could never be fulfilled. It is this that lies behind their saving Moses. They loved their child, yes, but they also loved God. It was their love for both their son and God that made them do what they did. Their love stirred them to believe that God would preserve their son and use him to fulfil God's promise of an eternal seed and eternal land for His people.

Mat 22:37 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

1 John 4:16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.

Jude 1:21 Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

Deu 6:5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

Deu 10:12 And now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

II. *Hebrews 11:23 A Fearless Faith*

The parents of Moses had a faith that was fearless despite opposition. As stated above, it was the law of the land that all newborn male children were to be killed at birth. Failure to obey the law most likely meant death to the law-breaker. The parents risked their lives in disobeying the law. But note what this verse says: "they were not afraid of the king's edict." They trusted God to preserve the child, and they cast their own lives upon God's care. They knew they had to risk their lives in order to save their son and the promised seed and land of God.

The point is this: the parents of Moses never received the promised land of God and they never saw the promised seed inherit the land. But they believed and trusted God, even in the face of a king's attempt to stamp out God's people and promise. They loved God and His promises and they believed God and His promises; therefore, they were willing to stake their lives upon Him and the *promised seed and land*.

Heb 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

James 1:5-6 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

James 2:17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

1 John 5:4-5 For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

Psa 34:22 The LORD redeems his servants; no one will be condemned who takes refuge in him.

Psa 37:5 Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this.

Psa 118:8 It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man.

Prov 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

Prov 29:15 The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother.

Isa 26:4 Trust in the LORD forever; for the LORD, the LORD, is the Rock eternal. ■