

Today we're going to talk about faith as it relates to trust. We all face situations that require trust. I met a couple this week who are in the farming industry in the midwest. We discussed the challenging dynamic of working in an industry that is dependent on the weather—something clearly outside of our control. You have situations that require trust. Maybe it's a job change, relationship conflict, a new path in parenting, or you want to strengthen your marriage. For me, the situation that required trust the past few years was my job search. Whatever your circumstance, we all face situations in which we wrestle with who we are and who God is.

We are going to read about a decision that Moses made and how he acted in faith. Here is the one thing that I want you to take away: faith believes that God will be faithful. He will be good. He will work for your good. Faith means that you can forgive because God will justify and defend you. Faith means that you can wake early to spend time with your heavenly Father because He will give you the added energy that you need for the day. Faith means that you can obey even though it's difficult because He has your best in mind. Faith means that you can walk into an uncertain future because if God calls you, God goes with you. The good news about faith is that God has good for you.

Here is what I hope you do: take advantage of opportunities which require your trust. If you do, you will see God's goodness toward you in a way that you haven't yet experienced.

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter (Hebrews 11:24).

Moses had two heritages and key events. First, in his Hebrew heritage, his parents abandoned him. We know why they did it. They did it for his good, as it says in verse 23. They valued their son. Jewish tradition says that when Moses was born he illuminated the room. They knew their son was special. But Moses didn't know why they did what they did. Imagine growing up with abandonment. That was Moses's first heritage. Moses had a second heritage—Egypt. Where Moses's parents abandoned him, Pharaoh's daughter accepted him. And with that adoption into Pharaoh's family came privilege, power, education and wealth.

I like hotels because in hotels you get to live a little bit different than you normally live. One of the best hotels in the world is in Turkey. To give you a glimpse of the resort, the pool is the largest pool in the Mediterranean. It's so big that they have

gondola rides. You know your pool is big when you have to take a gondola to get across! They imported 9,000 tons of sand from Egypt for their beach. They have spa treatments, and after the spa treatment, there is fresh snow for you to roll around in. One of their top rooms is only \$11,000 a night. It comes equipped with, among other things, a remote-controlled toilet. There is a baby grand piano in the living room. And it has a living room.

This is what Moses had. He had the best of the world, every luxury that the world could offer. Fascinating about the Moses story from the writer of Hebrew's perspective is that Moses refused that heritage. Moses came to a decision point. By faith, he chose to believe that God was faithful, despite his competition identities.

He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin (v. 25).

Here was his choice: Moses chose his first heritage with the Hebrew people. His choice meant mistreatment, suffering, and hardship. But it also meant that he joined with the people of God. It meant that Moses was a part of what God was doing in the world. Faith means that you can endure difficult circumstances if walking in the way of God. The alternative for Moses was the fleeting pleasures of Egypt. They were pleasures, but they were temporary pleasure. Moreover, the writer of Hebrews says that the pleasures of Egypt were sin; they represented everything less than the best of God. They were outside of God's design. Moses acted in a way that showed he believed that God had something good for him.

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 (v. 26).

How did Moses choose? Moses saw greater value living in the way of God. His faith meant that being mistreated—if it meant being a part of what God was doing in the world—was more valuable than the treasures of Egypt. As one commentator put it, "He balanced the best of the world with the worst of religion and chose the latter" (JFB). Interestingly, the writer of Hebrews describes Moses' suffering as connected to the suffering of Jesus. Somehow Moses' obedience to God's is part of the stream of the obedience of Christ.

Moses endures suffering by looking ahead. This is the only place in the New Testament that this word is found. The Greek literally

means, “to look away to.” In other words, it’s not simply looking **toward** something, but also looking **away** from something else. To “look away to” means that you look away from competing things so that you look only to the one thing worthy of your attention. For Moses, his attention was fixed on the reward. He believed that God brings good to those who act in faith. We see the same thing in verse 6 of this chapter. The writer declares that it is impossible to please God without faith. And he describes faith in this way: faith is believing that God is, and that God rewards those to seek Him. This is what Moses held to: God’s faithfulness meant that God would be good.

By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king’s anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible (v. 27).

What was characteristic about the faith of Moses? Moses persevered. He continued to persist. To persevere means to hold onto God’s faithfulness even when your faithfulness begins to slip. How was he able to persevere? He saw. Moses saw something that not everyone else could see. Michelangelo was reported to have said, “Every block of stone has a statue inside it, and it is the task of the sculptor to discover it.” Moses saw something that others couldn’t see. What did Moses see?

Moses saw “the one who is invisible.” Moses saw Him who cannot be seen. Moses glimpsed the The One who cannot be glimpsed. What does this mean? I think it means that because Moses acted in faith, he saw how God was working in the world. He was able to join with God in His purposes in the world. Moses saw something better because of his faith.

The writer of Hebrews ends the chapter by stating that there is something better for us. Moses and the other stories of faith are

connected to our stories of faith. God has something better for us—namely, the example of Jesus. Jesus is the object of our faith. He was the perfect faithful servant of God. He shows the faithfulness of God toward us. The faithfulness of Jesus is the anchor for our faith in Jesus. As John Calvin wrote, “Faith is not a distant view, but a warm embrace of Christ by which He dwells in us, and we are filled with the Divine Spirit.” Faith is not only a belief in, but also an embrace of Jesus.

Faith believes that God will be faithful. What can we put in practice from the story of Moses’ faith? I want you to find a decision this week that requires your trust, and choose to act as if God will be faithful, because He will be. Acting in faith may lead to more uncertainty, just as Moses faced uncertainty as he gave up privilege for poverty. Your acting in faith may lead to dealing with your past, just as Moses reconciled his past abandonment. Your acting in faith may lead to harder circumstances, just as Moses faced mistreatment in his choice. But if you choose to act and believe that God will be faithful to you, you will see the goodness of God in a new way.

You can be confident that if God calls you, God will go with you (cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:24). Charles Spurgeon put it this way: “As for his failing you, never dream of it - hate the thought. The God who has been sufficient until now, should be trusted to the end.” God will never cease to be faithful to you. By faith—by choosing trust His faithfulness—you can see His goodness in a new way.

This manuscript represents the bulk of what was preached at CPC South. For further detail, please refer to the audio recording of this sermon.

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