Choose Like Moses!

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday August 26th, 2018

Text: Heb. 11:23-27

### Intro

1. “Back-To-School” season can be both exciting and nervous for parents (students too).
   1. They take what they have learned at home into an environment out of the parents’ control
   2. They go into the world with all its influences that many of which run contrary to what the students have learned at home (or, should be).
   3. It’s good training to see if they will be an influence for good or succumb to evil influences since children leave the parents’ control for school, jobs, high school, college and the work force.
   4. Children through their teenage years need strong, godly role models to overcome the worldly influences all around them!
   5. An older Christian woman told me and my brother as we headed to college so many years ago, “Choose like Moses!”
2. Moses is an amazing story of faith and courage, especially for young people who are struggling to overcome our modernistic and atheistic society!
   1. His birth occurred during Egypt’s oppression and enslavement of the Hebrew people.
   2. Heb. 11:23: Moses was born to godly parents who refused to let the Egyptians kill their son along with all the other newborn Hebrew boys.
   3. *Ex. 2:1-10:* This expression of their faith gives us a hint as to the kind of instruction Moses received from his mother during the first few years of his life.
3. What Moses learned in his parents’ home left a lifelong impression on him and influenced the rest of his life!

#### Moses’ Upbringing

* 1. Wisdom of the world
     1. Acts 7:22: Moses was highly educated in the wisdom of his day.

1. The Egyptians were noted for their knowledge and worldly wisdom.
2. I Kings 4:30: Solomon’s wisdom exceeded the wisdom of Egypt.
   * 1. Moses was educated by worldly men who did not know God.
3. They were pantheistic – they worshiped many gods (Rom. 1:21-25).
   1. False knowledge
      1. I Tim. 6:20-21: The false knowledge, speculations, and theories of these men could not shipwreck his faith *(I Tim. 1:19).*
4. Rom. 1:25: They exchanged truth for a lie.
   * 1. II Cor. 10:4-5: His faith overthrew their speculation (later recorded the creation account in *Genesis 1 and 2*, as revealed by the Holy Spirit).
   1. Moral Corruption
      1. Not only did his training place no emphasis on God, he would have constantly faced great pressure to compromise his morality. (Pharaohs not moral)
      2. *Rom. 1:18-25:* He lived in an idolatrous world, which leads to a wicked and sinful society (1:26-32: Idolatry leads to gross immorality).
      3. Col. 3:5: Christians warned not to practice such things!
   2. Similar to some educational institutions today!
   3. Although educated in a system of science and religion, which neither acknowledged nor revered God, he remained true to God!

#### Moses’ World Compared With Ours

* 1. In many ways, our world is not that different from his!
     + 1. These same three things (worldly wisdom, false knowledge, and moral corruption) are prevalent in our society and taught in educational institutions!
  2. Humanism:
     + 1. Let a “humanist” define the word: “I use the word ‘humanist’ to mean someone who believes that humans are just as much a natural phenomenon as an animal or plant, that our bodies, minds, and souls were not supernaturally created but are the products of evolution, and that we are not under control or guidance of any supernatural beings, but have to rely on ourselves and our own powers.” (Julian Huxley, signer of *Humanist Manifesto 11*, 1973)
  3. Atheism:
     + 1. The existence of God is denied (Ps. 14:1; 36:1-4).
       2. No atheistic society has ever been a righteous society! *(Jud. 21:25)*
  4. Evolution:
     + 1. Once God is taken out of the picture, man attempts to explain the existence of life with things which require more faith than creation: Matter is eternal, life spontaneously arose out of non-living matter, and one kind evolved into completely different kinds of life.
  5. Relative Truth:
     + 1. People are being taught in school, on television, and in the lives of everyone they know, that there is no absolute standard of right and wrong, but that they will have to decide what is right for them to do – no one can decide for them.
       2. Truth is relative! *(Jud. 21:25: Everyone did what was right in their own eyes.)*
  6. Saints and young people today must still choose like Moses to overcome the world!

#### Moses’ Decision

* 1. Slavery or Royalty? *(Same choices people must make today! – Rom. 6:16-18; 8:14-17)*
     1. There is a price to be paid for commitment and doing the right thing.
     2. Even Jesus paid the price of obedience (Heb. 5:8-9).
     3. Heb. 11:24-26: With nothing to gain (physically) & everything to lose, Moses descended from the loftiest throne in the world to join Israelites. (Acts 7:23-25)
  2. Pain or pleasure? *(Same choices people must make today! – II Cor. 4:16-18)*
     1. He could have continued enjoying the luxuries that only the king’s court could provide for him (any sin he desired without reprisal).
     2. Heb. 11:25: Moses made the decision to do what was right, *because* it was right! *Whatever consequences followed were immaterial!* (Acts 7:35-36)
     3. Sin is an enjoyable thing – if it wasn’t, it wouldn’t tempt anyone!
  3. Eternal or Earthly Reward? *(Same choices people must make today! – I Cor. 9:24-27)*
     1. Why did Moses make this difficult decision? What swayed him?
        1. He was already a rich man! *(Acts 7:21-22)*
     2. From his childhood he had everything a man could want or dream of having!
     3. Heb. 11:26: Moses saw beyond the temporary and the material. (Acts 7:37-38)
     4. Heb. 11:27: He saw a God who offered him more than Egypt could!
  4. These are the same choices people must make today!
  5. Moses was in a hostile spiritual environment (no home is more corrupt than a reigning king) and yet he retained his spiritual priorities!

## Conclusion

1. Phil. 2:15: Saints are to be *“children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation…”* *(As Moses demonstrated, one can keep the right perspective in the midst of such a hostile environment to the truth)*
2. Moses chose the spiritual path with eternal rewards that outweighed the physical! (Rom. 8:18; II Cor. 4:16-18)
3. Parents: Remember Moses’ upbringing began in the home with his parents!
4. Young people: As you head back to school, be wise decision-makers – Choose like Moses!
5. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent of your sins and be baptized!
6. If a Christian in error, Repent and be the example you need to be!
7. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!