

“By faith Moses, when he had grown up” Hebrews chapter 11 verse 24

Moses's mother, in setting him adrift in the river Nile, was placing him in God's hands. She had faith that God had a plan for his life, but knew that he would not be safe if she kept him.

But she wasn't the only one who saw what happened to Moses. She also had a daughter, who happened to be the a servant girl to the daughter of Pharaoh himself. She stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. Pharaoh's daughter, on her way to bathe in the Nile, saw the child. She recognised him as one of the Hebrew boys, and adopted him. Moses's sister had a good suggestion. Why not ask one of the Hebrew women to come and look after him for her? That seemed like a good idea to Pharaoh's daughter. Did she have any suggestions? Well yes. And off went Moses's sister to find her mother, who then found herself getting paid to raise her son in the household of Pharaoh.

Funny how things turn out, isn't It?

So Moses grew up, effectively, as Pharaoh's grandson, while nevertheless learning from his mother about his true identity as a Hebrew. He lived in luxury, treated like royalty, and that could have been the pattern for his whole life.

But he came to the place where he had to make a choice between his life in Egypt's royal family and his own people, the Hebrew slaves. There couldn't have been a greater contrast. How easy it would have been just to enjoy his privileged lifestyle. But his call was to lead the Hebrew people to freedom and then to their own land.

Knowing the dangers, hardship and rejection he would have to face, he chose to follow the call of God on his life. How could he know that he would succeed in leading the multitudes of Israel to the homeland that God had promised them? He had God's assurance that he would be with them, and he put his faith in the God who had made that assurance. The next four books of the bible are an account of what a monumental undertaking that was.

At some point in our lives we are faced with choice. We can either continue in our own way, following the line of least resistance, or we can hear the call of Jesus to follow him. A rich, young religious leader heard that call from Jesus. His wealth and power had too great a hold on his life. He would not turn from it, with its material security and prestige, in order to follow Jesus. He went back to his life of worldly comfort and security, but he went away sad.

Jesus challenges us to turn our backs on the lives we live for the sake of our own material prosperity, security and advancement in order to gain a life of abundant fruitfulness in this world and eternal life in the next. Moses, the letter to the Hebrews tells us, “chose to suffer with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. For he considered reproach for the sake of Christ to be greater wealth than the pleasures of Egypt, since he was looking ahead to the reward.”

Prayer

Father, we know that you have something for us that is far greater than anything this world has to offer. We can come to know you, the only true God, and Jesus your Son, by the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We can enjoy a life of eternal significance, growing in our own spiritual maturity and leading others to faith in you also. We can look forward to a life of eternal joy and peace in your presence. Who would refuse that? May we continually hear and answer the calls you make on our lives, and obey regardless of the cost. In Jesus name, amen.

All these devotionals can be found on our website inghamitechurch.org on the 'Resources' page. Click on the link to go there.

I am having a break next week, so there will be no devotionals until Monday February 15th.