

Series: Hebrews

Lesson: #47

Title: Questions Only You Can Answer

Text: Hebrews 11: 24-29

Date: Sunday, July 27, 2008

Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Princeton, New Jersey

True faith follows Christ, forsaking everything this world has to offer. I want to ask you 6 questions. I ask every one listening to consider them with the utmost honesty. These are **Questions Only You Can Answer.**

A. First, are you choosing to make a name for yourself in this world or to be a nobody who follows Christ?

V24: By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

1. Egypt was the most powerful, wealthiest nation in the world.
2. The leader of that nation held the office of the most powerful man in the world.
3. Moses was next in line to step into that office.

Yet, believing God, choosing to give up all for his Lord, Moses declined and followed God.

B. Secondly, are you choosing a life of ease and pleasure in this world or suffering this world's disapproval for Christ's sake?

V25: [Moses chose] rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

1. Sin is enjoyable to our flesh. It is a pleasure we love by nature. Yet, all the pleasures of sin last but one short season and bring manifold sorrows

Isaiah 47: 7: And thou saidst, I shall be a lady for ever: so that thou didst not lay these things to thy heart, neither didst remember the latter end of it. 8: Therefore hear now this, thou that art given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly, that sayest in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me; I shall not sit as a widow, neither shall I know the loss of children: 9: But these two things shall come to thee in a moment in one day, the loss of children, and widowhood: they shall come upon thee in their perfection for the multitude of thy sorceries, and for the great abundance of thine enchantments.

2. The believer suffers affliction while in this flesh because the world is opposed to Christ. But the believer knows the pleasures of sin and the afflictions we suffer are nothing compared to the joy of following the Lord.

Psalm 16:11: Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

- No pleasure of this world compares to the peace of being reconciled to God in Christ Jesus. Standing before God complete and accepted in the Beloved.
- Of knowing that all things are yours and you shall have all things in Christ.

Psalm 36:8: They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures.

C. Third question: Are you going after the riches of this world? Or have you given them up to follow Christ?

V26: Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

1. The rich young ruler could not do it
2. The church at Laodecia thought themselves rich in Christ were but empty
3. The rich man in the Lord's parable could not do it: **He said, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?**

4. The wise man Solomon said: Proverbs 3: 9: Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: 10: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

- Honor the Lord with thy heart and with everything he's given you--give yourself to Christ lock stock and barrel.
- Your bank account may not be filled with plenty of money.
- Your garage may not be filled with plenty of luxury cars.
- Your freezer may not be filled with plenty of filet mignon.
- But he fills the barn and the winepress of the believer's heart full of plenty with Christ the Fullness of God.

For Moses the path of the world offered: Power, prestige, pleasure, and riches. The path he took promised: suffering and Affliction; Reproach and ridicule. All of which Moses suffered greatly.

D. Fourth question: Why would Moses, or any man, ever take such a path?

1. Moses followed the Lord because by faith he loved Christ whom this world hates.

V26: By faith, Moses esteemed the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

- The reward of trusting the Lord to exercise lovingkindness, judgment and righteousness toward him.
- The reward of trusting the Lord to be his wisdom and his strength
- The reward of one day beholding the riches of God's glory.
- The reward of having Christ has all his righteousness and holiness

The reward is worlds above something God gives, the reward is God. Christ is my portion. The triune God of glory is the believer's inheritance. Moses respected God's promise to be with God, to behold Christ's glory. So when the people mocked Moses for believing God, when they treated him with contempt because they hated the Christ he loved, Moses esteemed it the highest honor.

2. By faith, Moses loved those whom the Lord loved because they were the Lord's people.

V25: Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God,

1. He could have had been surrounded by folks in Pharaoh's kingdom who served *him*.

2. But Moses beheld what the Lord had done for his people.

- God had chosen them and put them in Christ,
- They were righteous and sanctified in Christ their Surety
- They suffered affliction as they awaited the Messiah who would deliver them with his own life and his own blood.
- Therefore because Moses esteemed Christ as his All, he gave himself for the good of those for whom Christ would give himself.
- They were precious to God therefore precious to Moses

2Timothy 2:10: Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

3. Moses walked this path because he feared God and not men.

V27: By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

Pink--Ah, there are many who forsake Egypt's (the world's) vices and pleasures, who do not separate from its religion, and that was the central thing in the final test which Moses' faith had to overcome.

1. The Lord's word to Pharaoh through the mouth of Moses was: **Let My people go, that they may hold a feast unto Me in the wilderness" (#Ex 5:1)**

2. When Moses told Pharaoh (the most powerful king in the entire world) offered a reasonable compromise to Moses: **Go ye, sacrifice to your God in the land (Ex 8:25).**

- "If your God is the ever-present God then you can worship God anywhere. You don't have to worship in the place he has appointed, you don't have to assemble with his people, or be so narrow in your worship. Moses, save your self the trouble of going into the wilderness, sacrifice to your God right here in Egypt."
- Moses replied: Not so, we will offer the abomination of Egypt...**we will go three days' journey into the wilderness, and sacrifice to the Lord our God as He shall command us" (Ex 8:27).**

3. Well, as all men do when they are attempting to sway you to their way of thinking, Pharaoh gives in a little, saying, **"I will let you go, that ye may sacrifice to the Lord your God in the wilderness, only ye shall not go very far away" (Ex 8:28)**

- "I don't mind if you go worship, just don't go to that place where the Lord commanded you to go." But Moses would not compromise.

4. Then Moses comes to Pharaoh again and Pharaoh asks, **"Who are they that shall go?"** Moses answered, **"We will go with our young and with our old, with our sons, and with**

our daughters, with our flocks and with our herds" (Ex 10:9). Pharaoh said, "go now ye that are men, and serve the Lord" (Ex 10:11).

- "We might come over to Rocky Hill but the church we're in has such good programs for the kids."
- By God's grace, Moses would not compromise.

5. So finally, Pharaoh gives Moses his best offer yet: **Exodus 12: 24: And Pharaoh called unto Moses, and said, Go ye, serve the LORD; only let your flocks and your herds be stayed: let your little ones also go with you.**

- "We love to serve God. We don't harp on the blood of Christ, or the necessity of Christ's blood. There's more to worshipping God than Christ, we talk more on how men should serve God." Pharaoh was saying, "Go serve God without Christ."
- But Moses would not compromise, could not compromise, but said, **Exodus 12: 26: Our cattle also shall go with us; there shall not an hoof be left behind; for thereof must we take to serve the LORD our God;**

If Moses would have reached a happy agreement with Pharaoh he would have given man the highest esteem proving he revered men not God. But by faith Moses did not behold Pharaoh as king but he beheld Christ the King of the world and said, we will approach our God in the place he's appointed, with our brethren, by faith in Christ alone and no other way.

4. Moses took this path because by faith he beheld Christ the Passover Lamb

V28: Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them.

1. Moses beheld Christ in the lamb which died in Moses place
2. Because God beheld the blood of his Firstborn Son his justice was satisfied toward Moses
3. Therefore the Lord passed over Moses and the people of God.

Moses believed all his acceptance with God was Christ the Passover Lamb.

E. Having asked these four questions, let me ask you this fifth question: What have you given up to follow Christ?

1. We can not be the friend of God and the friend of the world. It is impossible to follow Christ without giving up everything else.
2. Fact is Moses was so taken up with Christ, and despised these other things so much, that he did not consider himself to have given up anything.
3. If we long for the things we have given up...then we have not given them up.

Turn to Luke 14:25-35--Many had decided to follow after the Lord when he walked this earth, but many had given up nothing, listen to what the Lord said.

E. Last question, question number 6. Do you think you will be disappointed if you leave all and follow Christ alone? Was Moses?

Hebrews 11: 29: By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry *land*: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.

1. By this time, all those who originally sought Moses life were dead. Moses could have professed to believe the Lord and taken the throne of Egypt as well, but he would have been the Pharaoh leading the Egyptians which were drowned in the sea of God's wrath.

2. But by God's grace, by faith Moses, along with all of God's departed saints in every age who ever gave up all to follow Christ, passed through the Red sea on dry land.

3. As his heart overflowed with thanksgiving and joy, on the other side, Moses lifted up his voice with these words: **Exodus 15: 13: Thou in thy mercy hast led forth the people *which* thou hast redeemed: thou hast guided *them* in thy strength unto thy holy habitation....17: Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance, *in* the place, O LORD, *which* thou hast made for thee to dwell in, *in* the Sanctuary, O Lord, *which* thy hands have established. 18: The LORD shall reign for ever and ever.**

Application:

I beseech you, be honest before the all-knowing God, these are questions only you can answer: **Turn to God from idols to serve the living and true God; And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, *even* Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come (I Thess. 9, 10.) Amen!**