

Esteeming The Reproach of Christ Greater Than The Treasure of Egypt

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If you will this morning, turn with me to our text which will be found in Hebrews 11:26.

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

Let us pray.

O Lord, how great thou art, how merciful thou art, how longsuffering thou art, how full of mercy thou art, how full of grace and truth thou art. O Lord, we owe all that we have to thee knowing, Lord, that you give freely by thy great benevolence and love to thy people. Lord, may you bring us to thy feet, give us the mind of thy Son to entertain this morning the greatness of thy Gospel, the gift of thy faith. Teach us this day, Lord, what it is and teach us, Lord, what it isn't. May you be pleased to fill this place with thyself, that you would bring thy children to thy feet to minister in their time of sorrow, in their time of need, in their time of pain, in their time of unbelief. May you, Lord, be glorified this day and this hour. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Our text this morning, if you're familiar with Hebrews 11, it's in reference to the faith of the Son of God that was given to one named Moses. We at school this last week, for four weeks we've been in school and we just finished Hebrews 11. We've been in Hebrews 11 the entire four weeks and one of the things I hope to impress upon the children is that this faith that is spoken of is all about Christ. It's all about Christ and not the men that the Bible focuses on where that gift was given, but it's about Christ who is the author and finisher of that faith. And this faith that the Lord gives his children is extraordinary and it could be faith, as we've seen with all of these that are in Hebrews 11, I know we're all very familiar with the accounts in it and how the Lord came at a time in his child's life to give them of this powerful faith and belief to overcome doubt, to overcome whatever obstacle it was, and to see Christ. And I'm always intrigued when I read like in this case, it's not just Moses but all of those that are mentioned, Abraham and Abel and Noah and the others in the Old Testament, how it was the same faith. It was the same faith that you and I need today, the only difference is theirs looked ahead to Christ, ours looks back to what Christ did. It's the same faith. It credits his finished work.

That's what we see in this passage today which may strike you as odd, that the writer of Hebrews, which I believe is Paul, says that Moses by this faith, by the faith of the Son of God, esteemed the reproach of Christ, someone who hadn't even come on the scene yet, hadn't even come in time, but Moses by faith, as well as the other Old Testament, saw Christ and they knew that he was coming and they knew the persecutions that he would face, and they knew the sufferings, and they knew the reproach of Christ, and somehow he esteemed that greater than all the treasures that he was given in this life. That's extraordinary to me because you and I today as we sit here today, we've all been blessed with treasures of earthly kind and none of us are hurting, or have a lack in here of this life, and there are things that we get up and we enjoy and we'll leave here and we'll enjoy those things and we enjoy them in a security kind of way. If we have more of what is in this world, we feel more of a security to live in this world. That's the thing, Moses had all of that, had the greatest of security but he esteemed the reproach, the anger, the contempt that man had for Christ and what Christ would go through, he esteemed that higher knowing that the child of God must walk the same way as his Lord.

How do you get there? How do you get there and today that's what I hope we are going to look at, how we're going to look at these three verses because if we start at verse 24, we start at 24 this morning, we have those two words, "by faith." Paul said it over and over and over throughout this whole chapter just in case our carnal mind always wants to credit what man did. They want to look at Noah, they want to look at Abraham, we want to look at Moses, we want to look at all of these and say, "Wow, what a great man! What a hero of faith!" But Moses and all of these people are no different than you and I, they are receivers of a gift, an exercised gift, a powerful gift, the Spirit of Christ living in them to perform that the same that you and I have need of today. The same that we have

"By faith Moses, when he was come to years," about 40 years old. We know the account of Moses. We know how he was born, how God preserved his life, how he was raised by Pharaoh's daughter, raised in the house of Pharaoh, given all of the riches and he kept looking out there at these Hebrews and he knew that he was Hebrew and he knew that all of them started to be oppressed and they started to have this burden put upon them, and you and I today see the burden of man out there but none of us are signing up to take on that burden that man goes through today. We're not. The fallen nature of man does not do what Moses was empowered to do, as well as all of them here in this chapter.

"By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter," meaning he credited his actual nationality, he said, "No, I'm not Egyptian," even though he was 40 years old and he had been raised since a baby in this setting, as Pharaoh's daughter's son with all the riches in the world and all of the blessings that came to that and everything. Listen, it would be very easy for Moses to sit there and say, "God put me here. God's providence brought me here, therefore, I will stay. God brought this into my life. God preserved me. God did this," and just rest right there in this place of riches and rest right here in this place of great ease. But the Holy Scriptures tell us that he refused. How could he refuse? How could we refuse to be put in a place of great carnal blessing and then to turn our back upon it?

But that's not all, we go a little deeper in 25. It wasn't just that he refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, he chose "rather to suffer affliction with the people of God." He put himself under that affliction. What does that? And if you don't see it yet, you see this is the faith of Christ. This is what Christ did, he came down to earth. He came down and he suffered, and he bled, and he died, and he was ridiculed, and he chose to come down to be with the people of God to stand in their place and absorb the wrath of a holy and just Father against sin because no man could ever stand the vengeance of God against sin. One must stand in their place and faith says to Moses, "You will suffer," and Moses said, "Yes, I will suffer." That's what I mean, what is it in you and I today that when the sufferings and the persecutions and the afflictions come causes the child of God to lie down, to sit down and to wait for deliverance or to wait for his Lord to come and succor him? It's faith, the faith of the Son of God.

We're told at the beginning of this chapter the definition of faith is "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Moses hoped for deliverance for what was burdening his soul but he hoped, as we're told in our text today, his esteeming and what he believed in was someone who never even came to earth yet. I don't know if that astounds you. You and I can look back at a historical record and if it's not in here, we can look at the accounts of Josephus and historians who wrote at that time who knew of this one Jesus Christ and we can accept carnally that Jesus was born. We can but the Old Testament saints didn't have that. They had something greater than that, they had a faith to credit what the Lord revealed to them that he would do, that he was faithful to do it. We now today are given the same faith to credit what the Lord has done and that he has done it perfectly.

As I said, you know I could have picked any of these but as we went through this chapter week after week, when I came to this one, when the Lord brought me to this one, this is the one that spoke the most to me, this text, because I know my struggle in this life, I know my struggle carnally with the things that I've been blessed with providentially: health, riches, and family, and a good job, and all of these things that I look around day after day after day and I say, "Wow, you know, I know that there by the hand of my Lord"; and all the riches, that's what David said, "Everything that we have, Lord, is yours to give." And I often wonder, "Wow, if I was tried on this, if I was tried on this where I lost all of these things or some of these things, how would I react?" And I'll tell you how I would react, I would hate it. I would be bothered by it. I'd be grieved by it. I don't possess in me in my fallen man or my carnal mind a way to get here. I'm dependent upon my Lord and the Spirit of the Lord in me to reveal himself as my provider, as my faith. Not my faith, his faith, but mine being his by imputation.

Turn with me the first place today we'll go is in Luke 6. Turn with me over to Luke 6 real quick. These are the words of Christ in Luke 6 in verses 22 and 23. Remember, our text says that faith esteems the reproach of Christ greater than all the riches in Egypt. Jesus said this in Luke 6:22, "Blessed are ye," these are hard words, "Blessed are ye when men shall hate you." Nobody wants man to hate them. We try to live peaceably in this world and we don't want man to hate us but Jesus says something, he says, "Blessed are you," and he's speaking to his disciples as you see in 20, "when men shall hate you, and when

they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake." That's what we just read that took place with Moses. He was cast out. He was hated for what he stood for, and who knows the depth of what Pharaoh knew but he knew that Moses took a stand. We're told today why that stand was taken, because he esteemed Christ, the reproach of Christ greater than any position that he was given by man in this world.

Verse 23, "Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy." That doesn't happen naturally. We're not rejoicing when we're persecuted and hated and our name is trampled in the mud, but faith does, the mind of Christ does because there is a respect unto the recompense of the reward, the eternality of being with Christ; that this place is not our home; that we are strangers and pilgrims and it doesn't matter what label man puts on us and it doesn't matter what label the world puts on us. Faith credits Christ and says, "You are in Christ and the world knows him not," and you're okay with that because the Lord is sovereign over who he reveals himself to. This is the whole point of the Lord bringing us to his feet to accept his sovereignty in our life no matter how much we wouldn't do it that way or how much we would do it a different way.

"Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets." Which is what we just saw today in our text, this is what took place. This is the problem for Moses, he was reproached just as Christ was reproached and all because of the faith of Christ.

"Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God." And I know sometimes when I talk to my children, it's a very hard conversation to explain to them the way of the cross for the children of God and we'll all come the same way. Different afflictions, different persecutions, different trials, but the same reason, the same purpose in them, to wean us from this world.

John tells us in 1 John 4:4, "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them." Overcome who? The persecutors. The world. The enemy, Satan. Our flesh. You've overcome them "because greater is he that is in you." It's the Spirit of Christ. It's Christ in you, the hope of glory. "Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." That's how Moses overcame all the riches and all of the temptations of this world and the persecution that would come after it for turning his back on them.

David said this in Psalm 84:10, he said, "For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand." A day in the court of the Lord is better than a thousand days. "I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness." Faith, the mind of Christ, the way that Christ looked at Egypt was imputed to Moses to look at Egypt and see it as evil and to see it as the wickedness that's in this world. We won't see it that way. We're going to continue in this world with the mindset of the world until the Lord comes and gives us the mind of Christ. That's what faith does, it exercises the mind of Christ and takes us to what Christ has done. That's what the Holy Spirit does, he takes what Christ has done and reveals it to our soul and our mind and our spirit and our heart and makes us, conforms us to Christ's way in the day of his power. And praise God that

he does. He's faithful. As we read already, greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world.

Isaiah said in 48:10 and 11, "Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction." That might offend some of us in here, some of us I know it doesn't because you've been in the furnace of affliction many times and you know that is the way of the cross, and yet every time that affliction comes, yet there's something in us that still rebels against it; that says, "No, we don't want any part of it. We don't want to have anything to do with it." That's the carnal man but the new man, Christ in us, the hope of glory, is what apprehends and says, "Yes, this is the way of my Lord that he's ordained for me to walk, that he will draw me closer to him in this time to succor me, to reveal more of who he is."

That's what I hope you see today by the power of the Holy Ghost. Moses was revealed Christ in the midst of all of this, in the midst of prosperity in his life. Christ said to him, "You will walk another way. You will walk the way of the cross and here's the way of the cross." That's how Moses turned his back on Egypt. That's how Moses turned his back on the world.

"For mine own sake, even for mine own sake, will I do it: for how should my name be polluted? and I will not give my glory unto another." Why does he do what he does? For his glory. For his name's sake. And I'm going to tell you something, we rebel against that. Many times in our lives we entertain those thoughts that it doesn't make sense and we wouldn't do it that way, "Lord, how does this bring you glory?" And he has to bring us to show us that it does and his ways are so much higher than our ways and when the Lord quickens that to me, he usually quiets my rebellious spirit because some things are hard for me to get there. There's more than some, there are a lot of things and I look at this and I say, "Wow, how could I ever have such a faith?" I know what religious man tells me, "Exercise it. Oh, you've just got to believe." I'm not stupid. I'm fairly educated. If you tell me that I need to have this faith, I'm going to do everything I can to get it, and I have, but it hasn't produced one iota of faith. It's a gift of God. It's a power from within that only he exercises and he's faithful to do it. Praise be to God he is.

"Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season." And now we come to our text, "Esteeming," lifting up, edifying. Moses at this point in his life when the Lord imputed faith, when the Lord gave him of the faith to believe in Christ, he stood there and he said, "Do you know what? The reproach of Christ is greater than all of this," all of the splendors in Egypt, the richest country in all the world at that time, and him being one of the highest people in it, maybe even being Pharaoh one day.

What does that? How can we get from A to B when we've got way too much carnality up here that tells us that's not a good business move? That's not a good move for me in my life, that's not a good move for me and my family to go to esteem Christ greater than all of those treasures. Paul says but we see Jesus. That's what faith does, it sees Jesus. Faith is never in a circumstance and faith is never looking at a deliverance of a situation. Faith

sees Christ in that and faith credits Christ bringing what he has brought into our life. Faith says, "Christ is my Deliverer."

In 2 Timothy 3 Paul wrote this, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus," now that's a qualifying word, that "will." Who will live godly in Christ Jesus? Those who are made willing in the day of his power.

"All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." Do you know what that is? That's the reproach of Christ and all of us in one way, shape or form will be brought to partake in that reproach of Christ just as Moses was here, by faith.

Peter said it this way in 1 Peter 4:14, "If ye be reproached for the name of Christ," notice that, there's another qualifying word, you're reproached for the name of Christ. Not that you're treated badly because of your flesh, not because man doesn't get along with you because you don't get along with man, there is a reproach that the child of God goes through and is brought through in this life because of the name of Christ.

Peter said, "If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye." We've just seen that today three or four times. Joy. Happiness. That's why I say it's just unattainable to me to have joy in what is being spoken of that we will have joy in, and I know because as I said, I've tried to get there on my own, I've tried to do the things that are assimilated to me in this life and the helps and the things, but there's a difference, there's a huge difference when the Lord brings you somewhere and the Lord's presence is among you and in you and comes forth flowing from you. You know that's for his glory. You know that he has pulled you and has shaped you and is living himself in you and you know it's nothing that you've done, and you know it's nothing you've merited because what you can remember is your sin; what you can remember is your unbelief; what you can remember is your sin. But he doesn't remember that. That's how great this Lord is.

"If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of." It doesn't sanctify what they've done. It doesn't make what they've done holy. It doesn't make the ridicule and the reproach of Christ that wasn't a good thing. But the Lord overruled it for the good of his people; for the good of his Son; for the good of the church; for the good... Wow, that's what faith leads us to, that the Lord has done all things well.

"On their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified." And that's the thing, what we don't see in this is the recipient of the faith. We don't see Moses glorified. We don't see Moses lifted up. We just see the work of Christ coming to Moses and then him doing it. It's all of the Lord. And Moses many times, as we see in his accounts as he was afraid to speak and he needed someone to go with him, and we see that unbelief over and over again.

And think about this, another astounding thing for me is when we go to the New Testament and we see Moses mentioned, we like to think, "Well, that's the lawgiver. That's the one that the law came, by Moses." But yet he knew Christ. Moses wasn't

condemned by the law, he's the one the Lord gave the law to and what a great grace it is that even in Moses' situation where he saw the holiness of God, and he saw God's power, and he saw him in the mountain, and he saw him face-to-face, and he saw him in the burning bush, and he saw all of these things but yet the faith of Christ. It's what carried Moses through his life, to credit the finished work of Christ as his salvation, not the law. Not the Ten Commandments that was given to him. That is an extraordinary gift of faith.

Turn with me a little bit right here over to 2 Corinthians 12. We know this passage pretty well, when Paul was buffeted and he said the Lord gave to him, the messenger of Satan, lest he should be exalted above measure, and then we just pick up in 9, "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." You see, the weakness we have as we see in all of these Old Testament saints is where they were. That's where the weakness is. The weakness is to live in the pleasures of the world. The weakness is but the Lord's strength is greater than that weakness and it's made perfect in that weakness.

"Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." That's what we're hearing today in this account, that the faith of Christ says to Moses and every child of God, "I desire the power of Christ to be upon me that my pleasure would be in what the Lord has done." That's what faith does.

"Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong." He has revealed to Paul his plan of salvation for Paul is to go through the reproaches of Christ and all of the things that Christ suffered so that this life, this world, the things of this world, our clutches are removed from it and we're looking for a greater city.

Turn back over to our text in 11 and we'll look and see that in verse 13 of 11, "These all died in faith," they were all given the same faith, the faith of the Son of God, "not having received the promises." Well, what promise did they not receive? The incarnate Christ, but they received everything else in Christ. "But having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them," the same way you and I, to be persuaded that Christ came, "and embraced them, and confessed," this is the end of it, this is the end of faith, "that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth." Remember our text? "For he had respect unto the recompence of the reward." He valued the reward of eternal life and eternity in Christ, that he did anything in this world. That's what faith does. Faith credits what Christ has done and it removes the sting of death, and it removes the fear of death, and it reveals the love of Christ to give his life for his friends.

Verse 16 says, "But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city." That's what our text says today, that this faith, it esteems what Christ has done greater than anything else in the world; the greatest of everything in this world is nothing compared to the reproach of Christ and what the Lord went through for his children. It credits the finished work of Christ and it looks for a greater country and a greater place.

"For he had respect unto the recompence of the reward." Do you know what the reward is? It's not a place, it's the person of Christ. It's the Triune God. It's a place of unbroken communion. It's a place where faith won't be needed anymore because love will bind us together in Christ in eternity. We won't need faith to believe, we'll see him as he is.

That is one of the greatest graces I've ever... when I hear myself say it, I need this faith to get there to believe it because I do have fears of death and I have fears of death for my loved ones and fears of death, all my life I'm subject to this fear and the only way I can be delivered from it is my Lord to come and say that there is a greater reward for all of those who fall asleep in Christ. And I know it's such a cliché thing, you hear, "But, oh, they're in a better place." You can't rob that from the child of God because it is a better place, it's a place where they are known as they are known and they see the Lord and there is no more struggle down here. No more. The faith of Christ credits that. "I have a place that I've prepared for you."

Our last turning in the Bible today will come from 1 Corinthians 2, if you will. This tells us a little bit about how we can get there and this reward. How can we get there in our mind? Well, verse 9, "as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." We can only get there one way. You know, all of us would say it's a blessed thing to have sight, to be able to see everything, but it's also a curse because what we call sight we call faith, and we think when we see things by rational logic and we see things by sight, we credit that as faith and that's a huge stumblingblock. It was a stumblingblock to the Jews. It was a stumblingblock to the Gentiles. It's foolishness to the Gentiles.

"Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God." Verse 12 says, "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God." There's no other way, to be revealed by God himself, God the Spirit.

Oh, "the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him." It is. Our carnal mind sits back and plays the game all the time, mine still does at 48 years old, "What if the Bible isn't real? What if the Lord didn't come? What if all of this is a myth?" The natural mind. The natural mind always looking about what it sees in the natural world and saying, "That is truth." That natural mind must be quashed under his feet. O Lord, give me the mind of Christ that I may see what you have done by thy Holy Spirit.

Let's go back to our text now. "Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward." May the Lord bless this day, his children with this faith, the faith of the Son of God to esteem him higher than any riches in this world; to esteem what he did, what he did on the cross for his own. We stand in dire need of this faith, the faith that's not in the wisdom of men.

Paul said it in 1 Corinthians 2:5, "That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men but in the power of God." We need this faith, the faith of the Son of God that justifies us before God.

Paul said in Galatians 2:16, "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified." And I'll tell you something: to believe that you have a faith that is of yourself is a work of the law. May the Lord impress that upon us.

We need desperately to live by the faith of the Son of God. As Paul said in Galatians 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

May the Lord impress that upon us now, that this faith that we've talked about today is the faith that the child of God lives by that leads always, every road of this faith leads to Christ and what Christ has done. It begins in Christ and ends in Christ but it also is faith that's a gift, first. "For by grace are ye saved through faith," Ephesians 2:8, "and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God." But it is also a great faith that gives assurance. Paul said in Ephesians 3:12, "In whom," in Christ, "In whom we have boldness and access with confidence." Anybody know how that verse ends? "By the faith of him." That's how we have confidence that the Lord has come and he has died for us and that we are safe and secure in him and forgiven, and that one day this reward will be ours as the Lord comes for us.

Finally, looking to this faith and seeing it's author. It's always the Lord Jesus Christ. Hebrews 12:2, "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." You notice in that text we see the reproach of Christ.

May the Lord give us a desire and a wanting to walk in the way of Christ and that desire must come by the faith of Christ. May he be pleased today to exercise us this week and this day in that faith for his glory, for his honor, for his praise.

Dear heavenly Father, may you add thy power and may you add thy clarity and may you, Lord, impute, empower and give that faith as only thou can to thy children in this room and those in all this world today as we must live by that faith. And Lord, may you be pleased to exercise thy children and reveal in the midst of it thy great mercy and grace to do so, that it is your faith to give and your glory to receive. For this we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.