

**"The First 40 Years of Moses' Life"**

**Part 3**

**Exodus 2**

**Introduction:** Tonight, as we step into the study of the life of Moses, we are going to finally get to look at the character of Moses. So far, we have looked at the background to his birth and we looked at the actual birth and the faith of his parents. But tonight, we are going to get to study the life of the man when he was 40 years of age.

We are not given the details of the impact of Moses' choice to walk away from the palace, but I can imagine his choice shook things up in the royal family. If something of this magnitude would happen today it would be front page news across our nation. It would be talked about at every water cooler in every office building. Notice the words of F. B. Meyer on the choice Moses made:

*"The announcement would be, perhaps, met by bitter tears and hot indignation the part of her to whom he owed so much... In how many circles it would be discussed, and what different interpretations would be placed on it! Some would attribute it to his background of slavery; others to some scheme of ultimate self-gratification. All would feel sympathy for the princess, whose kindness seemed so rudely requited. But no one guessed the strength or purity of his hidden purpose, born of God, and nurtured by His Holy Spirit."*

The choice of Moses would have been highly embarrassing to the royal family. They had invested so much in him. He was rescued from the Nile, nursed by his mother and then adopted by Pharaoh's daughter. He was brought into the royal family where he was treated as a son of the king. All the hours spent teaching him the ways of the Egyptians. And after all this he turns his back upon the royal family. They would have been furious with Moses' decision. But they did not know he was a member of another Royal Family that was far more important than Pharaoh's. God was his Father and there was a higher calling on his life and so the Egyptians would not understand his choice, and neither would some of the Israelites.

Consider this, there were many who were really hoping he would be the next Pharaoh for then he could relieve the pressure from the Israelites. He could be like Joseph and he could rescue them from destruction. But with his choice to leave the palace the hopes and dreams of many of the Israelites were shattered. Now in their mind all hope was lost. They had no idea what God was going to do, and they would not know for another 40 years.

Tonight, I want to look at what Moses walked away from.

**I. The Refusals of Moses**

**Notice Exodus 2:11-15**

Now there is far more to what we read here in Exodus and to see the details we need to look elsewhere.

**Acts 7:23-25**

<sup>23</sup> *And when he was full forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren the children of Israel.*

<sup>24</sup> *And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended him, and avenged him that was oppressed, and smote the Egyptian:*

<sup>25</sup> *For he supposed his brethren would have understood how that God by his hand would deliver them: but they understood not.*

**Hebrews 11:24-25**

<sup>24</sup> *By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;*

<sup>25</sup> *Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;*

I want to focus upon what the writer of Hebrews wrote when he said Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. When he made this choice, he refused many things.

**1. He refused a position.**

He had the opportunity to be the son of the king's daughter. Many believe this would have put him in line for the throne. Notice the words of Josephus:

*"Pharaoh had no other children, and his daughter, Thermutis, Moses' adopted mother, had no children of her own. So, Moses would probably have succeeded to the throne."*

We can not be sure of this, but we can be sure that if Moses did not succeed to the throne, he would have held a very high position in the Egyptian kingdom. He would have been taken care of extremely well and material wealth would have been at his fingertips. But Moses rejected the position. Let me also add here that he knew the repercussions would be costly.

**Hebrews 11:25**

<sup>25</sup> *Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;*

Moses knew there would be affliction due to his choice, but he was doing what God was placing in his heart to do.

**Application:**

Worldly position is a very difficult offer to refuse. People sacrifice and pay great sums to gain positions in this world. The flesh longs for the things which are connected with positions. Moses was not controlled by the flesh and so the position offered to him was not appealing when compared to what God offered to him. Few people have been able to refuse the temptation of position in the world. This reminds me of what John wrote:

**1 John 2:15-17**

<sup>15</sup> *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

<sup>16</sup> *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*

<sup>17</sup> *And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.*

When people today are offered positions of prominence, they throw character to the wind in order to get the position. Butler reminds us that this is exactly why so many in high positions lack character. They have abandoned their character in order to get the position they have.

It takes a person controlled by the Spirit to refuse what Moses refused. To reject this kind of position, knowing that there would be affliction speaks volumes of the character of Moses and it speaks volumes of the character of those who refuse the same today in order to follow the will of God.

**2. He refused popularity.**

**Acts 7:22**

<sup>22</sup> *And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds.*

To hold a high position and to be educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians would bring great popularity for Moses. He would now be popular in Egypt but not for the reason he could have been. He would now be popular for a "foolish" decision in the eyes of the world. But Moses did not seek to be popular. He simply sought the will of God.

**Application:**

Popularity today drives many people. People do the most ridiculous things on the internet just to get "likes" on their Facebook page. Videos are uploaded to YouTube with the hope of getting followers and to see how many views they can get. This is all about the flesh basking in popularity. Just look at the ridiculous things that professional athletes do in order to get noticed. I read an article a while back about Hollywood life and there were stars that were interviewed shared that one of their greatest fears was losing popularity. They long for the reporters, and the crowds and they will do whatever it takes to gain the popularity even if it means behaving poorly.

Moses refused the popularity because he was a man of character. Serving God was far more important than gaining popularity.

**3. He refused pleasures.**

Hebrews 11:24-25

***<sup>24</sup> By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;***

***<sup>25</sup> Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;***

Let me show you the words of Butler concerning this thought:

*"The Palace of Egypt as do all palaces and the White House, and many government headquarters and dwellings provide unlimited fleshly pleasure. Much of the pleasures are immoral: but they were protected of course by the walls of the palace. So those in the palace could drink deeply of the pleasures of sin. Wine, women, and song were readily available in the palace anytime Moses wanted them. But he refused the illicit pleasures. Moses wisely was able to see those pleasures were only for a season. And the season is sin is short, especially compared to eternity. When the season is over the curse sets in."*

Moses knew something that many people never stop to consider when tempted with the pleasures of sin, and that is after the pleasures there is nothing but pain and embarrassment. There are many in our world today who wish they would have displayed character as noble as that of Moses. They were tempted with the pleasures of sin and they chose to drink deeply of the cistern of immorality. Now their lives are forever scarred. Their lives will never be what they once were.

Even believers who are forgiven for their choice to drink of the pleasures of sin cannot escape the consequences of their choices. Let me show you what Nathan told David concerning the consequences of his sin.

**2 Samuel 12:7-12**

<sup>7</sup> And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul;

<sup>8</sup> And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things.

<sup>9</sup> Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.

<sup>10</sup> Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife.

<sup>11</sup> Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun.

<sup>12</sup> For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.

Let me just say that if we are going to make a difference for God, we must refuse the pleasures of sin. Satan will tempt us with many pleasures and even place people in your life to encourage you to drink from the cistern of immorality. But if you do you will limit or even completely eliminate your service for God. The church today contains many people who have sacrificed Divine usefulness for the pleasures of sin.

Let me put a few verses together to draw a picture for you.

**Hebrews 12:1-2**

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

<sup>2</sup> 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.

I show you this to remind you that the Christian life is like a race. Not a sprint but a marathon. Now let us notice what Paul writes to the Corinthians concerning the race and the requirements.

**1 Corinthians 9:24-27**

<sup>24</sup> Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

<sup>25</sup> And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

<sup>26</sup> I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

<sup>27</sup> But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

Paul has in mind here the Roman games. Those who competed trained properly and they practiced self-control. Then along with this they had to be sure to follow the rules. If they didn't, they could be "castaway" which means "disqualified".

This is what happens to many believers. They neglect to exercise self-control and they become disqualified for service. Let me give you an example.

**Numbers 20:7-12**

<sup>7</sup> And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

<sup>8</sup> Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink.

<sup>9</sup> And Moses took the rod from before the LORD, as he commanded him.

<sup>10</sup> And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?

<sup>11</sup> And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also.

<sup>12</sup> And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.

Moses would not be permitted to lead the people into Canaan because he lost his temper and struck the Rock twice thus ruining an Old Testament picture of Jesus Christ. Moses later pleaded with the Lord to be permitted to go over the Jordan.

**Deuteronomy 3:23-27**

<sup>23</sup> And I besought the LORD at that time, saying,

<sup>24</sup> O Lord GOD, thou hast begun to shew thy servant thy greatness, and thy mighty hand: for what God is there in heaven or in earth, that can do according to thy works, and according to thy might?

<sup>25</sup> I pray thee, let me go over, and see the good land that is beyond Jordan, that goodly mountain, and Lebanon.

<sup>26</sup> But the LORD was wroth with me for your sakes, and would not hear me: and the LORD said unto me, Let it suffice thee; speak no more unto me of this matter.

<sup>27</sup> Get thee up into the top of Pisgah, and lift up thine eyes westward, and northward, and southward, and eastward, and behold it with thine eyes: for thou shalt not go over this Jordan.

Let me give you one more thing Moses refused.

**4. He refused possessions.**

**Hebrews 11:26**

<sup>25</sup> Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

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

Moses was in no way controlled by worldly possessions. We are told here that he refused the treasures in Egypt and the value of these treasures would have been far greater than we can imagine. Everything was at his fingertips. But he refused to get weighted down with worldly possessions. He walked away from all of those treasures. This speaks loudly of Moses' character. It is one thing to refuse wealth if you never had it, but Moses had it all and he gave it up.

**Conclusion:**

These refusals placed Moses in a position to be used by God. Let us use his refusals to examine our lives to see if there is anything that would be a hinderance to keep God from using us.