Hebrews 11:23-29

Moses’ Life of Faith

I. Slide#1 Announce:
A. Slide#2 Married Couples - Our Better Together marriage ministry is hosting, Sacred Promise Conf.
   1. Fri night 2/27 6:30pm enjoy a live play by Michael/Jodi Sewell Marriage Conspiracy
   2. Sat day 2/28 conf 9am-3pm. $35 per couple/info booth. Engaged couples invited also.
B. Slide#3 Justice Matters Conf - This Sat. justice-matter.com
   1. FBI tells us that 1/3 of all runaways will be contacted by a pimp within 48 hours of leaving home. W/in 72 hours will have been prostituted. Average age at which a person is first prostituted in the U.S. is between 11-14 years.
   2. Thus our Title: “Because our children are still at Risk.”
C. Slide#4 Prayer: Students arriving at CCBC. JM4.

II. Intro:
A. We continue on in the gallery of O.T. heroes of faith…our next runner up is Moses.
   1. Moses was Israel’s greatest lawgiver (Moses synonymous w/Lawgiver), historian (writer of Pent, Israel’s history), & deliverer (story of Exodus).
   2. In every critical stage in Moses’ life, faith shaped him for his ultimate ministry.
   3. Slide#5 And listen to this unparalleled epitaph written in Deut. 34:10-12 NLT
      There has never been another prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face. The Lord sent him to perform all the miraculous signs and wonders in the land of Egypt against Pharaoh, and all his servants, and his entire land. With mighty power, Moses performed terrifying acts in the sight of all Israel.
B. Slide#6 Title: Moses’ life of Faith

III. Slide#7a [1] FAITH DOES...THE RIGHT THING (23)
A. This story is told in Ex.2:1-10. This actually has to do with the faith of Moses parents.
   1. Their names were Amram & Jochebed. Both of the tribe of Levi. They had 2 other children whom we know: Aaron, the oldest; Miriam, Moses’ older sister; & Moses.
   2. It was at a very dark time for Israel. When Pharaoh commanded the Hebrew midwives to murder all the males immediately upon birth.
B. A beautiful child – What parent doesn’t look at their child & think their child’s the cutest child ever?
   1. It means: fine, healthy, no ordinary child (NIV) which is what is implied.
   2. Obviously there was something about him that made him more beautiful.
a) He was not only beautiful, but a gifted & unusually promising one.

C. Moses parent’s came up w/this creative plan to float him right into Pharaoh’s palace.
   1. Slide#7b Now, he wasn’t shootin the rapids as in some coloring books.
   2. She laid the lil ark in the reeds, by the rivers bank.

D. Slide#8 Jochebed’s Faith paid immediate dividends, as she got paid to nurse her own child. And to raise him during the early & most formative years of his life.
   1. Do you realize while Pharaoh was trying his best to murder the Hebrew babies; his daughter was using royal funds keeping one alive. [That’s so like our God]
   2. So, Amram (friend of Jehovah) & Jochebed (Jehovah is her Glory) were the molders & shapers of Moses faith during the early years (Ex.2:9,10).
      a) Moses became aware of his own origins; was taught to fear God; made conscious of his call to deliver his people. As Acts 7:25 attests to this, For he supposed that his brethren would have understood that God would deliver them by his hand, but they did not understand)
      b) Their faith, prayers, bravery, & their creativity saved their son.
      c) What an encouragement for those of us who are attempting to raise a godly family in today’s secular desert. (Kent Hughes) [Great reminder to: quit whining about how bad our world is & start being creative on how to pour into our children]

E. Slide#9 Personal Lesson: Don’t Fear the Pharaoh’s.
   1. Entrust your children into God’s care.
   2. New mom’s & dad’s, since your children are only yours “on loan”...Entrust God with your child & show your faith, by making a little ark, and floating your child in the reeds of God’s Nile when asked.
   3. Of course you can come up with a 100 reasons why you can’t [what if waves come, what if it’s not-waterproof, what if he’s found, taken, or drowned by the Egyptians, what if…] Don’t Fear the worlds Pharaoh’s.

IV. Slide#10 [2] FAITH CHOOSES...AFFLICTION OVER AFFLUENCE (24-26)
A. This story is told in Ex.2:11-15. Moses is now a 40yr old man.
B. (24) The son of the Pharaoh – was a title, a royal designation.
   1. Living during this 19th Egyptian Dynasty would’ve meant prestige & wealth.
   2. Giving this life up must have been a blow to Pharaoh. Faith is courageous.
C. Slide#11a (25) Erma Bombeck, Don't confuse fame with success. Madonna is one, & Helen Keller is the other. [I told you I was sick.(requested epitaph) I didn't fight my way to the top of the food chain to be a vegetarian]
D. Slide#11b Sin is pleasurable - “...the pleasures of sin for a season”(KJV). “…rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time.”(NIV). “passing pleasure of sin”(NASB).
1. **Faith** must *choose* between the attractive...but temporary & affliction...but eternal.

2. It is **wrong** to teach your children that sin isn’t pleasurable, when the bible says it is.
   a) What we need to teach them is that it’s a *temporary pleasure* w/devastating consequences.
   b) I didn’t stop drinking, going to parties, & doing drugs because I didn’t enjoy it any longer. No, I learned where that road leads to...There is a way that seems right to a man, *But its end is the way of death*.

3. So, how did Moses say no to those Egyptians delights? (see 26)

**E. (26) He looked to the reward**

1. *Looked* = “to keep one’s attention fixed on something, as an artist fixes his attention on the object or model that he is reproducing in painting or sculpture.” (LKGNT)

2. Slide#12 Apollo 13, to conserve power, shut down the onboard computer that steered the craft. Yet the astronauts needed to conduct a **39 second burn** of the main engines. How to steer? Astronaut Jim Lovell determined that if they could *keep a fixed point in space in view* through their tiny window, they could steer the craft manually.
   That focal point turned out to be their destination - Earth.

**F. Slide#13 Personal Lessons: Don’t Fear Missing out on Worldly Fun.**

**V. Slide#14 [3] FAITH WaITS...IN MIDIAN (27)**

A. **This story is told in Ex.2:14-22.** Moses withdraws to Midian.

B. Admittedly he fled to save his life (Ex.2:14,15) because he feared the anger of the king/Pharaoh; but the writer of Hebrews goes **deeper** into the story.

   1. **For Moses to withdraw to Midian was not an act of fear; it was an act of courage.** How? It showed the courage of the man who has learned to wait.
      a) How long did he wait in Midian? (40 years)

   2. During this time he continued to see the **unseen**, the invisible realities.
      a) Slide#15 **Faith’s eye saw**, what the physical eye is incapable of seeing.¹
      b) Christianity is to be lived supernaturally. Remember when Elisha prayed for his servant, *O Lord, open his eyes so he may see* (see horses & see chariots of the Lord’s army surrounding & protecting them)

C. **Slide#16 Personal Lessons: Don’t Fear Missing Your Opportunity.**

   1. This is what David’s friends were saying to him in the cave. **David, this is your opportunity to take Saul’s life & become king...like God told you you were.**

   2. Are you big enough to wait until God says, *now is the time/hour*?

¹ Kent Hughes, pg.120
A. S. Peake said, “The courage to abandon work on which one’s heart is set & accept inaction cheerfully as the will of God, is of the rarest & highest kind, & can be created & sustained only by the clearest spiritual vision.”

3. “It is human to fear to miss the chance; but it is great to wait for the time of God – even when it seems like throwing a chance away.” [William Barclay]

VI. Slide#18 [4] FAITH OBEYS...GOD’S WORD (28)

A. This story is told in Ex.12. We leap frog over many years: Past Moses’ confrontation with the new Pharaoh; past 9 plagues, to the 10th one; to the final & fateful night in Egypt, when Pharaoh finally, let God’s people go.

1. The sprinkling of the blood at Passover was upon the door posts of each Israelites household. “The instructions strange; the demands costly; the ritual unprecedented.”

2. This act of faith broke the back of Pharaoh’s resistance & the Egyptians begged the Israelites to leave.

B. Slide#19 Personal Lessons: Don’t Fear Looking Foolish.

1. This week, Lar/Tony/Michelle/Jen & I took a course on Oral Inductive Bible Study. Using Bible stories & targeted questions to discover as a group the bible's original intent. Any ways, Michelle told what an African pastor said, We don’t fear looking silly in Africa. Only in the West do they care what they look like. Don’t Fear Looking Foolish

VII. Slide#20 [5] FAITH MOVES...FORWARD (29)

A. This story is told in Ex.14. This recounts the story of faith exercised by Moses & Israel when the Egyptians changed their minds & pursued Israel w/an army of chariots & soldiers.

B. Faith? Moses had to tell them to stand still (14:13), hold your peace (14) & go forward (15).

1. But so often when we talk about faith, God refuses to remember our lapses of faith & chooses only see only where our faith landed.

2. It still took faith for the Israelites to move forward.
   a) An Arabian prince received a new sword, he exclaimed, “This is too short!” to which came the reply, “To a brave man no sword is too short. If it seems too short, simply take one step forward & it will be long enough.” - It will also take faith for you to move forward.

C. Moses faith was shown when he lifted his staff & held his hand over the sea for it to part.

D. Israel’s faith wasn’t until they passed through the walls of water & arrived safely on the other shore. - When does your faith kick in?

1. Faith dares to obey despite apparent obstacles & difficulties.

2 Raymond Brown (Adapted)
2. “It pays no attention to impossibilities when God has spoken.” [Ray Stedman, pg.130]

E. Slide#21 Personal Lessons: Don’t Fear The Enemy.

1. “The business of life, the way of life, consists in getting over fences, not lying down & moaning on the other side!”

F. Wrap up: In every critical stage in Moses’ life, faith shaped him for his ultimate ministry. His parents’ initial faith saved his life (23). Growing up, faith led him to throw in his lot with the slave people of Israel rather than his adoptive royal family (24-26). Faith enabled him to defy rather than give into Pharaoh, remaining obedient to the heavenly King (26-27). Faith led Moses to command the people to keep the first Passover (28). And Faith led Moses to walk boldly into the Red Sea (29).


G. So what was the key to Moses faith? Ex.33:11 So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.

1. The Key? was the close intimacy of his relationship w/God. Moses knew God personally & intimately. To every task Moses came out from God’s presence.
   a) It is told that before a great battle Napoleon would stand in his tent alone. He would send for his commanders to come to him, one by one. When they came in, he would say no word but look them in the eye & shake their hand. And they would go out ready to die for the general they loved.

2. The secret of victorious living is to face God before we face men.

H. Communion:

1. Bread -
2. Cup -