

**Hebrews 11:24-26**  
**“The Penny Principal”**

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**I. Introduction**

The second example the writer issues is a curious one seeing that there in NO First Testament text that the writer refers too, nothing in all the writings of Moses. Instead there must have only been oral tradition as the Jewish Roman historian Josephus mentions a story of Moses throwing down the crown and standing on it. More importantly the writer of Hebrews refers too Moses rejecting his position in the Egyptian court as well as Stephen in Acts 7:20-28. The decision the writer of Hebrews places before his readers isn’t introduced until verse 26 where he describes the choice as between:

- The reproaches of Christ
- The treasures of Egypt

There are several mitigating factors that would have made this decision difficult the first of which is best understood in what based upon these three verses Moses rejected. We are told specifically that they were the three things the the world prizes above every thing in verses 24-26:

Vs. 24 **POSITION**

Vs. 25 **PLEASURE**

Vs. 26 **PROSPERITY**

Further more we are told the sole reason that Moses was able to make this decision as, *he looked to the reward*’.

## II. Vs. 24 Child of the King

Vs. 24 In Acts chapter 7:20-28 Stephen speaks of Moses life in three 40-year periods.

- Acts 7:20-28 From birth to 40: Here we see Moses as deliver, but Stephen is careful to show Moses failures as he **spent the first 40 years becoming something**. As a baby hidden for 3 months, then brought up in Pharaoh's house, educated in the ways of the Egyptians; mighty in words and deeds. Moses felt a call on his life at 40 and wanted to identify and help his own people. You remember the story, as he sees the suffering of his people at the hands of the Egyptians he **tries to do the work of God in the energy of the flesh** and all that happens is that someone dies. The next day he thinks that he accomplished some thing for God as he sees two Jews fighting and instead of being a **deliver** he tries to be a **reconciler** bring the two combatants together. They didn't receive Moses' and question him as to whom made him boss. It is evident that there's a big difference between Moses at this time and Jesus. Moses was willing to kill someone to accomplish his call while Jesus was willing to die to accomplish His call. To the readers of Hebrews, the parallel is obvious the Hebrews rejected Moses to be ruler and judge over them though now they esteemed him. And now they were denying Jesus as ruler and judge over them as well.
- Acts 7:29-36 From 40 to 80. The **next 40 years Moses spends in gentile lands thinking he was nothing**. Moses got married had two boys and changes careers from prince to shepherd. Stephen says at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> 40-year period God comes to him, and says to Moses, "**I have seen, I have heard, I have come**" (verse 34). Moses had 40 years earlier "**seen, heard and killed**"! It took 40 years to work on the heart of Moses so that he would GO in the strength of the Lord not in his own strength. Stephen was showing a pattern in the human heart in the history of their forefather's Spiritual pride and ignorance which caused them to reject God's deliverance this was also the same argument that the writer of Hebrews was making. Stephen now further shows how their forefathers rejected those that God had sent by showing that they rejected Moses in the third 40-year period as LAWGIVER.
- Acts 7:37-43 From 80 to 120. The last 40 years of Moses life was **God showing Moses that He can only do something through nothings**. In Acts chapter 6:11-13 the religious leader including Saul of Tarsus had accused Stephen of speaking blaspheme against Moses and the Law. They made this claim because Stephen had spoken so much about Jesus. So Stephen answers their pride because of the law by using three points:
  1. Vs. 37-38 By quoting Deut. 18:15. "*Hey, Moses himself spoke of God raising up another prophet like him.*" So they could not claim that God's truth and plan was limited to Moses alone as the Sadducees believed. The same guy they so honored as the one who brought forth the "living oracles" is the same one who said that God was going to bring another like him.
  2. Vs. 39-40 Second point Stephen uses is that their forefathers had rejected Moses even after God had showed them that Moses was the anointed deliver. It wasn't Stephen who was disobeying the law and rejecting Moses; they were doing just what their father's had done before them.

3. Vs. 41-43 Stephen pointed out that even after the 2<sup>nd</sup> time Moses went up the hill to receive the Law and the sacrificial system the people still fell into pride and the worship of idols. Stephen quotes Amos to support this fact of their history. They accused Stephen of blaspheme, yet they were the ones that were blasphemers. **It is not having a Bible that makes you right before God it is obedience to it!**

Moses renounced the status he enjoyed in Egypt as a member of the royal household. He couldn't identify as both, he had to choose one or the other.

Moses gave up the three things the world prizes the most:

- **Vs. 24 Position**
- **Vs. 25 Pleasure**
- **Vs. 26 Prosperity**

To make the choice even more difficult Moses wasn't just rejecting the benefits of Egyptian royalty he was accepting Jewish slavery and contempt which entailed substantial persecution beyond material disadvantages. According to chronological data given us by the First Testament:

- The Exodus from Egypt occurred 480 years before the 4<sup>th</sup> year of Solomon's reign (1 Kings 6:1) and Solomon's 4<sup>th</sup> year was 966 BC. This means that the Exodus occurred in 1446-1445 BC.
- Moses was 80 years old at that time of the Exodus (Exodus 7:7) which means that he was born around 1525 BC.
- We know that the Pharaoh at the time of Moses birth was Thutmose I whose daughter was Hatshepsut who married her ½ brother Thutmose II who died after a short reign. She then took over the reign and rule of Egypt for 20 years until Thutmose III was able to unseat her. It is believed by some that this Hatshepsut was the daughter that took Moses out of the water and raised him.

Though only speculation if correct Moses was indeed in line to be Pharaoh or possibly very high up in the Egyptian court. Moses identification is unmistakable proof that he saw himself as a Hebrew not an Egyptian. To anyone evaluating this choice it defies all logic when we employ worldly standards and some could point to Moses' forerunner in Joseph as a biblical example of the benefits of NOT rejecting such worldly opportunities.

The argument is for those Hebrews who didn't want to choose between the Levitical sacrifices and what they pointed too, Jesus.

### III. Vs. 25 The truth about Egypt's treasures

Vs. 25 It is only when we insert the phrase "By Faith" in this verse that we understand the basis of Moses choice of refusing the material benefits of Egyptian life advantages for the ill-treatment of the Hebrews. Moses could have argued with himself from the position of Joseph that he could do far more for his people from a position of the advantages of the Egyptians then from the disadvantages of the Hebrews but faith according to verse 26 didn't see the disadvantages of the Hebrew condition but their rewards against the temporary fleeting condition of the Egyptians. The writer of Hebrews offers his reader three specific truths with regards with sin:

- **That sin is pleasurable**
- **That it's pleasure it ultimately unsatisfactory**
- **That it's pleasure is only temporary**

By faith Moses viewed the Hebrews as not just slaves of Pharaoh the people of God and heirs of the promises. He wasn't just choosing a national identification but rather a spiritual affiliation as they were the "People of God" and not the "people of Israel"! He was fully aware of the cost of his choice but as far as he was concerned by faith choosing the Hebrews over the Egyptians was a wise investment! The treasures of Egypt were no doubt considerable, the wealth of the 18<sup>th</sup> dynasty is well known even today but Moses deliberately choose that forever place the treasures of Egypt beyond his reach all because he valued the reproach of Christ of greater value. Moses appears to have a messianic understanding as noted in Deut. 18:15 as such his act of renunciation was prompted by his looking away to his reward. **The irony was that Jesus was being rejected in part because He didn't act as a royal king establishing His kingdom on earth immediately**

**and instead choose, like Moses whom they revered, to identify with the suffering**

**Hebrews!** Baron Justinian Von Welz was the son of Austrian royalty who at 40 years of age upon his conversion to Christianity was called to serve as a missionary to Guiana and lay aside his earthly royalty. When questioned about this he responded: **What does it matter to be known as “well born” when I am “born again”? What does it matter to have the earthly title of “Lord” when I am the servant of THE LORD? And what does it matter to be called “your grace” when I am in constant need of God’s grace?**

#### IV. Vs. 26 The riches of the reproaches of Christ

Vs. 26 Moses by faith weighed the temporal benefits of the Egyptians as being of far less value than even the reproach of the world laid upon the people of the promises of God. Saints this ought to enable us too consider how great are the blessing and promises are that the greatest advantages the world has to offer are to be shunned in order to inherit what God has promised us! This is yet another warning by way of illustration for those Hebrews who were considering abandoning Jesus to cling to religion! God is not interested in:

- ***Where we come from***
- ***How much we have***
- ***What honors we gather***

Jesus in Matthew 11:11 spoke of the greatest man that had ever lived, John the Baptist and the reason that he was considered the greatest was because of three things that made up his life:

- He always obeyed the Lord
- He was filled with the Holy Spirit
- He pointed everyone to Jesus his Master

The choice was between what many would consider two opposite values:

- **“The reproach of Christ”**
- **“The treasures of Egypt”**

And such an evaluation is true but the opposite of most would think! The temporary treasures of Egypt are no match for the incredible riches of the reproach of Christ! Had Moses chosen the temporary treasures of Egypt we may have well unearthed his mummified body and been viewing his corpse in a museum today. Instead because he valued the incredible riches of the reproach of Christ though he died on a mountain in Moab he was with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration. Because of this as Vance Havner said, “*Moses chose the imperishable, saw the invisible and accomplished the impossible.*” Which if you were given the opportunity would you choose? A million dollars or 1 penny doubled each day for 31 days? It’s clear from one national survey that most folks would choose the million as people recover yearly 62 million dollars of pennies from landfills each year. But if you stopped to do the math it may surprise you which is of greater value. In ten days your doubled penny would still only be worth \$5.21 but when you continued to double that each day for 31 days you would have 10,237,418.24