

**Hebrews 11:27**  
**“Under Construction”**

- I. Introduction**
- II. Vs. 27a Not fearing**
- III. Vs. 27b Seeing the invisible**

**I. Introduction**

We are back to the third illustration of Moses by the writer and this one unlike the last illustration has a first testament passage as well as Stephen’s preaching to fill end the gaps. According to Steven’s words in Acts 7: 22 “**Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds.**” The intellectual development of Moses, was clearly influenced by the time he spent in the courts of Egypt, as he was trained and raised in their culture. According to verse 19 Jethro’s daughters mistook him for an Egyptian which means that he looked like an Egyptian, talked like an Egyptian and acted like an Egyptian. When Moses went any where being the son of Pharaoh’s daughter he would hear the words of his personal body guards as he stepped out of princely chariot, “*bow the knee*” and every body would have to bow the knee. Yet, according to the author of Hebrews Moses, “*when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.*” There is no doubt that Moses parents had told him of his heritage and the promises of God towards the Israelites. What’s remarkable is that at some point in time Moses was going to be recognized as the next Pharaoh of Egypt, to which we are told here in Hebrews that he refused. **Moses turned down the best that Egypt had to offer, for all the worst it had to give!**

*Suffering was not put upon him, he made a conscious choice to leave the lap of luxury for a life of hardship. Moses placed the right value on the right things. There was a point in Moses spiritual development that he backed up his belief by how he chose to live his life, “reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt.”* In Acts 7:23 we read Steven’s account of this as he said, *“Now when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel.”*

**There ought to be in every believer’s life a time:**

- *When just saying you are a Christian is not enough*
- *When just going to church once or twice a week isn’t doing it for you*

## II. Vs. 27a Not fearing

According to Exodus 2:12 with all the training of the Egyptians behind him and a passion for what God wanted; Moses did what a lot of immature Christians try to do, **conquer Egypt with the principals of Egypt.** It says that, Moses *“looks this way and that way, and saw no one”*. Moses acted with premeditation and passion, trying to fulfill the call on his life by the energy of his own flesh. **He had man’s wisdom and mans power but all it produced was death and a grave.** The question we astute bible students need to ask is; *“If Moses had done what the Lord wanted why did he attempt to hide it?”* **This suggests to us that Moses knew that this was not of the Lord.**

Steven in Acts 7:24 again gives us insight into Moses thinking in killing the Egyptian, **“For he supposed that his brethren would have understood that God would deliver them by his hand, but they did not understand.”** That’s an interesting commentary when we consider Egyptian’s persecuting Hebrews and an Egyptian prince who is Hebrew yet looks and acts like an Egyptian kills an Egyptian beating a Hebrew.

*“Yeh, that does it for me and the rest of the three million shepherders turned brick layers are ready to follow you!”*

In Exodus 2:13 Moses the next day sees two Hebrews fighting one of them oppressing the other and stops the fight. The Hebrew word in verse 11 rendered “**beating**” and the one rendered “**striking**” in verse 13 is the same word. The difference is NOT in the action but the people involved in the action as they are both Hebrews and Moses can’t understand why the one would do this to each other. Steven offers this commentary as to the motive behind Moses actions in Acts 7:25 saying, “***that God would deliver them by his hand, but they did not understand.***” God would deliver them but it would be His hand working through an X-Egyptian prince turned shepherd. The point being made is that **Moses had to learn how to follow before he could learn how to lead!**

In Exodus 2:14 we see the response of the two combatants to Moses attempt, “***Who made you prince and judge over us.***” Oh the irony of their statement; **Moses was the prince and judge over all of Egypt**, yet the example he had shown them in the of killing an Egyptian was **trying to lead the people by the ways of the Egyptians but they could only be led by the ways of a shepherd.**

All the training to lead Egyptians did nothing to lead Hebrews. Moses looked this way and that way but he did not look up towards God. Had he done so he would have found that God was going to deliver His people, His way in His time. It is great to have sincere motives but if those motives are God given ones they must be tempered by total dependence upon Him.

What's interesting to see is that the Exodus 2:14 statement saying, "Moses FEARED and said, surely this thing is known" which seems in a direct contradiction to the writer of Hebrews statement with regards to Moses where we are told that "***By faith he forsook Egypt, NOT FEARING the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.***" Stephen doesn't clarify this as his only comment is that "at this saying (by the two Israelites that he was a murder), Moses fled and became a dweller in the land of Midian, where he had two sons." The seeming contradiction is cleared up when we realize the context of the writer of Hebrews point is: NOT Pharaohs anger at the CAUSE of Moses actions (the murder of the Egyptian) but instead the lack of fear at the CONSEQUENCES of Moses actions which was forsaking Egypt. Moses departure from Egypt showed that he had renounced his former life as a prince of Egypt and had embraced his life as an Israelite. The two fears are different:

1. "***He feared and therefore fled***": The fear mentioned in Exodus is the fear that arises from the discovery of the slaying of the Egyptian.
2. "***He feared NOT therefore he fled***": The lack of fear in Hebrews is of Pharaohs anger on discovering that Moses had left Egypt.

#### II. Vs. 27b Seeing the invisible

As far as the illustration in Hebrews there remains only one last statement, "*for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible*". We need to resist our knowledge of this story when we interpret this statement as it is not a reference of Moses encounter with God at the burning bush as that wouldn't happen for another 40 years, recorded in Exodus 3. Instead this statement deals with Moses endurance for 40 years in Midian because he had already saw BY FAITH He who was invisible and was rewarded for this 40 years later in Exodus chapter 3 at the burning bush. Exodus 3:15 fills in the blanks of the brief statement by the writer of Hebrews and in we learn a more about Moses in his defeat and

failure then we can in his victory. First immediately after Moses failure we see two things immediate consequences to Moses failure, one was positive the other was negative:

1. vs. 14b **Moses feared**: The first thing that ***Moses lost was his self confidant*** as he is now afraid. In the case of Moses this wasn't a bad thing for his confidence was in himself instead of the Lord. But this can happen for the believer as well when we get out of the plan of God all our confidence in God goes.
2. b.) vs. 15 **Moses flees**: Notice that the second casualty in Moses was ***all the passion for his people left when he failed***. Because Moses confidence was in himself when he failed he ***quit and ran!*** I see this a lot with Christians, when people with a passion go for it with all the fleshly energy they can muster only to not achieve what they wanted, the first thing that leaves them is the passion to continue. Moses failure was because he attempted to Gods work in his power and he has lost his taste for Gods call but the good news was God was not done with him.

In Exodus 15 we are told that Moses fled to Midian. We are tempted to brush this destination as unimportant but I believe that the destination was hand selected for Moses because God knew the right place to send him to prepare him for the next work:

- A. It was the land of Abraham's younger sons through Keturah his wife after Sarah died. They settled on the southeastern Sinai in what today we would call west central Arabia.
- B. The people of that land the Midianites, were monotheistic and believed in the same God as the Hebrew people did. In fact, his father in laws name (Ruel) means friend of God.
- C. The land of the Canaanites had an extradite treaty with Egypt, so that Moses knew that if he had fled their he would of been brought back to justice.

**Moses must have felt like big failure, he had abandoned his people, his call, his way of life.** The name Midian means "***strife***" and I think that the strife was that warring in Moses members. Moses was in the desert and it was all a part of Gods plan to strip Egypt from Moses; it was easier to Get Moses out of Egypt than the 40 years to get Egypt out of Moses. Though we may not like the strife in the desert it is here that victory is always won! **If you find you are in Midian (STRIFE) right now, stop trying to leave and start learning the lessons of it for you won't be leaving it until you do.**

- **Moses came to Midian a prince but he would leave as a shepherd 40 years later.**
- **Moses came to it a son of the queen he would leave it a son of a slave.**
- **Moses came to it wealthy, he left it poor.**
- **Moses came to it a mighty warrior, he left it a meek man.**

**Oh how one day we will thank God for our Midian experiences in life as they fit us for service.**

It is interesting symbolically in Exodus 2:15 to see Moses after his failure ending up at a well of water, as this is biblically a symbol of the Holy Spirit. There is nothing like

failure it to make us realize that we need the Holy Spirit. The word “*dwelt*” means to settle there and I believe the key to Christian living is sitting down and making our home by the well of the Holy Spirit.

The next thing we notice in Exodus 2:16-17 is that God does not put Moses on the shelf there. Jethro had seven daughters and no sons, and his daughters would have to get there real early and remove the stone that covered the well to start watering the sheep. But each time they would be bullied by the other shepherds who would come later and this was an, every day occurrence **until Moses stepped in to deliver them. God is showing Moses that His call on his life is still their but that he needs to learn how to lead.** The word here “helped” in Exodus 2:17 means to **deliver in the Hebrew.** Notice that Moses didn’t take it upon himself and kill one of them! Instead he just stood up, the root word here means to “**abide**”. Moses just refused to move from the place of the well and stood his ground. **The victory was not about Moses killing some bully shepherd, he just abided by the Holy Spirit and let Him do the work.**

In Exodus 2:18-20 Jethro’s daughters tell the story and as he eats dinner we see in verse 19 that Moses drew water for all the ladies and their sheep. **Only a few days in the desert and Moses is already starting change, he has gone from doing it his way to doing it Gods way and becoming less of a prince and more of a servant.** People will always follow a servant before they will ever follow a prince.

In Exodus 2:21-22 at the naming of his first son Gershom, “**an alien here**” Moses still has more to learn and it will take 40 more years for he to be prepared. Moses thought of himself still as an Egyptian and 40 years would pass until he would see himself not as an Egyptian but as a Hebrew longing to take his people home to Canaan.