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I Ain't Scared

Text: Hebrews 11:27

Egypt was a place of splendor. Egypt was a place in which Moses had experienced great privilege and a place in which he had access to power and wealth. This text says Moses forsook it all. The language is so specific as to imply a forsaking of the whole. It is not that Moses forsook the educational aspect of Egypt and retained the economic component. It is not that Moses enjoyed the housing piece but forsook the access to transportation. No, he forsook Egypt! In his forsaking he surely considered the consequences. There would be repercussions. Moses feared not the wrath of the king. The king, the Pharaoh's could have become violent or, at least, angry. He had been good to Moses and now Moses seems to be rejecting all that the king offered.

My friend, Pastor Stephen Davey, suggests that Moses' 120 years on earth could be divided into three 40-year periods:

First 40 years- *opulence* in Pharaoh's palace

Second 40 years- *obscurity* in Midian after he murdered an Egyptian

Final 40 years- *oversight* as he leads the children of Israel

In Exodus 2:14-15 we read of Moses acting in fear. Moses was not always unafraid. However, our text in Hebrews 11 says that there was a leaving, a forsaking of Egypt that was not attached to fear.

How was Moses able to endure? The answer is in our text in Hebrews 11.

Moses saw the invisible Christ! That's faith! Kent Hughes calls this *future certitude*.

Kent Hughes wrote:

"I know what would produce such faith in each one of us. Sixty seconds in Heaven. Fifteen seconds to view the face of Christ (though it would be impossible to move our gaze after such a short time). Fifteen seconds to survey the angelic host. Fifteen seconds to glimpse Heaven's architecture. And fifteen seconds to behold the face of a loved one now glorified. That is all it

would take. But God is not going to do that for any of us. I could pray until I was blue in the face, and I wouldn't get a second in Heaven until eternity.

I know what else would do it, and that is simply what Moses did: believing God's word. And we can all do that now. If we are having trouble believing, we ought to read these passages carefully, then ask God for the capability to believe, and then believe!"¹

Whatever Moses saw in Egypt, what he saw in the invisible God was more beautiful. There is a hymn that compares the beauty of the creation to the greater beauty of the Christ. The hymn is Fairest Lord Jesus.

The text is by H.A. Hoffman

1	Fairest Lord Jesus! Ruler of all nature! O Thou of God and man the Son! Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor, Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown!
2	Fair are the meadows Fairer still the woodlands, Robed in the blooming garb of spring; Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, Who makes the woeful heart to sing!

¹ Excerpt From
Hebrews (2 volumes in 1 / ESV Edition)

R. Kent Hughes

<https://books.apple.com/us/book/hebrews-2-volumes-in-1-esv-edition/id1074010269>

3	Fair is the sunshine, Fairer still the moonlight, And all the twinkling starry host; Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer, Than all the angels heav'n can boast!
4	All fairest beauty, Heavenly and earthly, Wondrously, Jesus, is found in Thee; None can be nearer, Fairer, or dearer, Than Thou my Savior art to me

Moses is saying, “the palace is fair and beautiful, but the unseen God is even more beautiful!”
“Pharaoh’s house is splendid, but the invisible God is even more splendid.”

Look at our text again. Moses was able to endure, was able to be unafraid of the king’s wrath, because of the look of faith. Moses *saw* something. Verse 26 says he looked to the reward. Verse 27 says he saw Him who is invisible. *Invisible* does not mean that a person or object *can’t* be seen. *Invisible* means that the person or object is not *now* seen. Moses has been trying, for years, to see God. God hides Himself. God knows that that a full display of Himself would be overwhelming for Moses.

Exodus 33:18-23

18 And he (Moses) said, “Please, show me Your glory.”

19 Then He said, “I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.” **20** But He said, “You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.” **21** And the Lord said, “Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. **22** So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. **23** Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen.”

Three closing observations from Hebrews 11:27:

1. Faith in a credible God gives us the courage to **forsake** our Egypts, in all forms.

- Faith in a credible God will put **courage** in us so that we don't fear the wrath of the king. This text in Hebrews 11:27 seems, at first, to directly contradict Exodus 2:14. After Moses killed an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew, Moses was confronted. Exodus 2:14 reads, *So Moses feared and said, 'Surely this thing is known!'*

There were times when Moses was fearful and times when Moses was unafraid. Moses was like you and like me. Sometimes we are filled with fear. At other times, we are full of courage. Faith calls us to live more in confidence than in fear.

- Faith in a credible God enables us to **see** God when this credible God is not visible. Colossians 1:15 describes Christ as the image of the invisible God. This God who is not always seen is beheld through, and by, the eyes of faith. The reason "**I ain't scared**" is because I have seen God. Moses had an enviable intimacy with God.

Exodus 33:11

So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face as a man speaks to his friend.

Miriam and Aaron were greatly criticizing Moses and speaking against him. When God addressed Miriam and Aaron about this, God explained that God and Moses had an uncommon relationship.

Numbers 12:6-8

Then He said, "Hear now My words: if there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord, make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream. Not so with My servant Moses; He is faithful in all My house. I speak to him face to face, even plainly, and not in dark sayings; and he sees the form of the Lord. Why then are you not afraid to speak against My servant Moses?"

As I close, I call on us all to initiate Moses in this text. Let us go at life with a certain swagger. We can be confident and forsake that which may be very attractive and tempting *because* our God is for us. God puts in us the ability to forsake Egypt. God makes us unafraid. God helps us see the One who is not always visible.

We might borrow the text of an old hymn as our prayer:

*Open my eyes that I may see
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me
Place in my hands the wonderful key
That shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for Thee
Ready, my God, Thy will to see
Open my eye, illumine me
Spirit divine.*

Amen

