

What Faith Refuses, and What Faith Chooses

- Pew Bibles, p. 1833 (Heb 11). Special ch; Faith Ch. Heading: Faith in Action; or “Hall/Faith (Fame). This ch lists some most famous OT believers who put faith in Lord, & put into action. So look: Abel, Enoch, etc. These are the heroes/faith in Faith Ch. Today, hero/faith – Moses, beg at vs 24. (Bible or folder.) But main lesson learn today from looking at faith M: we see WFR/WFC.
- So let’s first review faith/life M (not Charlton Heston M from old 10 Com movie, but way Bible tells). M born to Heb slaves in Egyp. When Phar ordered all Heb baby boys killed, M’s parents disobeyed; basket; reeds, bank Nile. (Kid’s song: Baby Moses.) Phar’s daughter bathing, sees, picks up; hires M’s mother nurse, until old enough move into palace. And M raised by royal family of Egyp. FF 40 yrs: M living in luxury; but knows Heb slaves his people. Bothers him. One day sees Egyp slave master beating Heb slave; gets so angry (bec his people), kills slave master. Now M has choice to make: “Who am I? Egyp royalty, or do I belong to people of God?”
- **Vs. 24-26a.** M is hero of faith bec teaches us WFR/WFC. Just look what M by faith refuses: **vs. 24b, 25b.** M living a lie, knew it. Conscience bothered him; knew couldn’t live Egyp life, worship Egyp gods when his people were down in mud making bricks. So M refuses all wealth, luxury, privilege, sin of easy life in Egyp. And instead, chooses: look, **vs. 25a, 26a, 27a.** This what M chooses. HS worked faith in heart; and by that faith M chooses follow Lord, put faith in action.
- This week in VBS (thanks students, singing!), actually focused on life/faith of M – esp what haps to M after leaves Egyp. Talked re: after called at burning bush, went to Phar; let people go; 10 plagues; Phar released then changed mind; crossed Red Sea; wandered wilderness; made it to Jordan – all under faithful leadership of M. M one greatest prophets ever lived. But had no idea what God had in store for him when **vs. 25.** All knew: “My God is Lord; I’ll follow him.” That’s faith! And today M shows us WFR/WFC: faith refuses sinful life apart from Lord, chooses harder life of faith with Lord.
- Now, on this whole matter of refusing/choosing, imp to remember: we cannot choose come faith in Xp as Savior. By nature, dead in sin. Only HS can work faith in hearts, convert us to Xianity. But when he does that, we Xians do have many choices to make. Called our sanctified Xian living; it’s way we put faith into action to say thank you to God. Faith refuses/chooses. One example: 6th Com, adultery; clear from Scripture, adultery incl any kind sex between anyone not married. It’s of course easier, more pleasurable, more common, less expensive, less difficult to have sex with friend not married to, move in together before married – just like easier, more pleasurable, less difficult for M to stay in Egyp palace; but would’ve been living a lie. And saying you’re Xian, completely disregarding 6th Com by having sex with someone not married – that’s living a lie. Easier, but wrong – should bother our conscience. So faith refuses/chooses: refuses easier path of sexual sin; chooses more diff path of waiting until you’re married. That’s just one very practical example of refusing **vs. 25b.**
- What in your life do you need to refuse or choose? How is Satan tempting you? Is it sexual sin; foul language sin; grudge/hatred sin; jealousy/coveting sin; lack of respect for God, Word, worship sin? How is Satan tempting you? Have to recognize: it’s always easier choose path sin, do wrong thing. You know true! So as Xian, you have work very hard to refuse sin & choose to follow God’s will. J talked re this in Gospel (Lk 9:23) – **“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves”** (refusing) **“and take up their cross daily and follow me”** (choosing). Those choices are hard, painful – just like M going from Egyp royalty to Heb slave was hard, painful – but right choice. Problem, of course, so often we don’t make right choice. We don’t refuse sin; we give into it; even choose it, enjoy; convince ourselves it’s okay; suppress our conscience; live the lie. And instead of our Xian faith doing the refusing/choosing, more often it’s our sinful nature doing refusing/choosing.

- Only answer to this problem is Xp. Just look what Xp refuses/chooses. J refused sin every day; always said no Satan. J refused live comf life in heaven; instead, chose leave heaven, come earth, feel sorrow, feel pain. He chose cross, all torture that entailed. Refused easy path; followed will of his Father; and chose diff/painful task of saving us. So now – praise God! – through J’s death/res, God forgives us for all times we Xians fail to refuse tempt and do make sinful choices. J gives us his holy perfection as gift that counts for us. What vs. 26 means. M’s reward not something earned, deserved; was righteousness of Xp that God graciously gave him – worth immeasurably more than all wealth Egyp. And by faith in J, God graciously gives us righteousness of Xp, as well.
- Vs. 27. Who’s invisible? J, in sense that none us ever seen J with our physical eyes; neither had M. This means that faith (very essence): seeing the invisible. If go back **Heb 11:1**. Faith: seeing the invisible. We can’t see J with phys eyes. But do see him with eyes of faith: in Word, promises, sacraments, love. That’s how we see J, just like how M “**saw him who was invisible.**”
- And so, what is it about M that makes him hero/faith in this great Faith Ch of Bible? M teaches us WFR/WFC. To be Xian, follow Xp, means to refuse path of sin, say no to your sinful nature, deny self; and to choose more diff/painful path of taking up your cross daily, following J’s will for your life. That’s what M did in Egyp; that’s what we must do today. Will be hard. But at very end of Faith Ch, where Heb 11 ends, ch 12 begins, says: “**Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses**” (all these heroes of faith who teach us how to put our faith into action), “**let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles**” (WFR). “**And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us**” (WFC), “**fixing our eyes on Jesus**” – bec when we fix the eyes of our faith on J, and when we put our faith into action, in what we refuse and in what we choose, then we’ll be following in footsteps of M and all great heroes/faith.

Hebrews 11:24-27

²⁴ By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. ²⁵ He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. ²⁶ He regarded disgrace for the sake of Xp as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. ²⁷ By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king’s anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.