

Choosing Your Treasure.
Hebrews 11:24-26
Sunday morning, February 10,2008.

I. Choosing your identity. Vs. 24

“Moses... refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter.”

Those who would come and stand before the Lord in worship, and would be accepted of Him in their worship, must do so either as the sheep of the Lord’s flock, or as those who desire to become sheep of the Lord’s flock.

Either way it involves the making of a choice as to your identity.

Such choices have vast consequences.

A. Abraham chose to obey God’s call and he went out, not knowing where he was going. Hebr. 11:8.

He took on the identity of a stranger and pilgrim in the earth.

He had faith and respect for God’s promised reward, and waited for that city and country to come. Hebrews 11:10,16.

B. Ruth would not cease from following after Naomi. By faith she chose a new identity for herself saying: “Your people shall be my people, and your God my God.” Ruth 1:16.

C. Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter when he became of age Consider the vast consequences this choice had in terms of his losses in this world.

1. Moses was a prince in Egypt. A man somewhere in line to the throne of Pharaoh himself.

2. He was well educated; schooled in all the wisdom of Egypt. Acts 7:22.

3. He was an accomplished young man; mighty in words and deeds. Acts 7:22. Moses had it made; he had a great future lined up for himself in Egypt.

4. Instead he chooses a new identity; a life of affliction, not only at the hands of the Egyptians, but also at the hands of his own people.

5. The greater Moses, the Lord Jesus Christ, chose to become the Son of Man, a lowly servant at that, to bring men redemption.

Application:

What about you? Have you chosen your identity? Ultimately you can not be accepted by God as an acceptable worshipper without making this deliberate choice. You must come having made this choice, or desiring to make it, and then acting on that desire. Moses made his choice believing that the people of God held the future. This is why baptism must be owned and followed up by a credible profession of faith.

II. Invest yourself in that identity. Vs. 25.

“Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin.”

A. Moses did not merely count himself as an Israelite while enjoying the good life in Egypt, he invested himself in his people; suffering affliction with them while seeking to do them good.

1. When an Egyptian taskmaster mistreated his brothers, he killed the Egyptian.

2. When two of his brothers mistreated each other he sought to reconcile them.
- B. In those days Moses took their people's identity and he invested himself, in his own carnal energy, into his people. This led to a quick burnout. But 40 years later he is back, and this time he stands in the strength of the Lord. This time he stands as God before Pharaoh, and he stands as God before his own people, mediating the provisional form of the covenant of grace known as the Old Testament. Exodus 7:1.
- C. Later the Greater Moses would not only take our identity in becoming man, but he would invest Himself in us in the strength of the Holy Spirit.
 "Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows." Isa. 53:4. He invested Himself, being made sin for us, and dying in our place, so that He might bring us to God and to our heavenly Canaan. 2 Cor. 5:21.

Application:

As true worshippers we must not only take the identity of the people of God in this world, We must invest ourselves in that identity and in those people. We must do so because Christ did. Remember, true worship always results in acceptance with God, and in fellowship with God and in a walking with Him. Since He is totally invested in the welfare of His Church ("I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; your walls are continually before me." Isa. 49:16.) we can only have fellowship with Him and walk with Him in joining ourselves to Him in that endeavor. Remember this in your prayers and in your offerings.

III. Checking the foundations. Vs. 26.

"Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt, for he looked for the reward."

- A. Moses' decision to identify himself with, and to invest himself in the people of God was based on a conviction. It was based on a truth that he was convinced of by faith. Moses looked to the end of all things, and he looked for a return on his life's investment. He wanted to stand on the right side of history. As such he owned the present distress of Christ in His people as greater riches than all that Egypt had to offer. He believed it would lead to a good eternal end and return.
- B. Secondly it was a voluntary decision. No one forced Moses to identify himself with, and invest himself into his people. It was the only thing that made sense to him. All else seemed like vanity and wind compared to it. There were no other valuables to invest in.
 Ruth did not have to go with Naomi. She did so voluntarily and by conviction.
- C. Ultimately the voluntary nature of all gospel living in fellowship with the Lord is the voluntary decision the Lord made to identify Himself with us, and to invest Himself in us. No law forced Him to do so Hebr. 10:7

Application: Are conviction and voluntary decision the foundation of your worship and walk with the Lord? "Do you also want to go away?... Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." John 6:67,68.