Good morning, Family. This morning as we continue in the book of Exodus, remember that these events are a story of us: How God, in His providence, purpose, and provision, rescues us from slavery and accompanies us on a journey of and toward freedom. In this, the OT story of rescue and redemption, we meet Moses, a type of Christ, a shadow of our Messiah to come. Many consider Moses to be the greatest prophet in the Bible. He spent forty years as a prince in the Egyptian palace, forty years in the Midian desert as a shepherd, and forty years communing with God and leading the nation of Israel.

 In God’s sovereignty, Jochebed of the tribe of Levi, Moses’ own mother, becomes his wet nurse. Pharaoh’s daughter pays her to care for Moses, who she adopts. Moses grows to manhood in the palace; it seems that he has “made it.” In Acts 7:20-29, Steven gives an account of Moses’ life that shows readers of the Word how Moses, who is destined for the throne, choses to identify with Israel’s God. He chooses to be a man of faith and finds his identity in his faith (see Hebrews 11:23-29 under “Passages that support this passage” at the end of this text). Following his faith, Moses rejects his earthly title and position: “By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter: (Hebrews 11:24). In Hebrews 11:25, Moses reevaluates his circumstances and makes the choice to identify with God and with the people of God; Moses refuses the temporary pleasures of sin. He chooses obedience to his God. His earthly position gives him

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\*Acts 7:20-29

**20**“At that time Moses was born, and he was no ordinary child.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+7%3A20-29&version=NIV#fen-NIV-27137a)] For three months he was cared for by his family. **21**When he was placed outside, Pharaoh’s daughter took him and brought him up as her own son. **22**Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action.**23**“When Moses was forty years old, he decided to visit his own people, the Israelites. **24**He saw one of them being mistreated by an Egyptian, so he went to his defense and avenged him by killing the Egyptian. **25**Moses thought that his own people would realize that God was using him to rescue them, but they did not. **26**The next day Moses came upon two Israelites who were fighting. He tried to reconcile them by saying, ‘Men, you are brothers; why do you want to hurt each other?’ **27**“But the man who was mistreating the other pushed Moses aside and said, ‘Who made you ruler and judge over us? **28**Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?’[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+7%3A20-29&version=NIV#fen-NIV-27145b)] **29**When Moses heard this, he fled to Midian, where he settled as a foreigner and had two sons.

lots of perks. He has in hand all this world can offer, but it is the world to come and the riches of God and His promised Messiah that have Moses’ affection. Look at Hebrews 11:26: “He regards disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he looks ahead to his reward.” Moses, the author of Hebrews tells us, looks past his pleasant earthly condition to the greater riches in Christ, for the reward to come. His faith leads Moses to obedience, and God empowers him to rescue God’s people, Israel.

*So where is your heart? What do you choose? Who are you?*

 Exodus teaches us much about the nature and nurture of God and the nature of man. Family, listen. Moses flees Egypt twice, first to Midian to escape retribution after his murder of an Egyptian guard and second toward the Promised Land, as he leads God’s people. The first departure results from fear (\*Exodus 2:11-15), but the second leaving results from faith in God (\*\* Hebrews 11:27 & 29).

What makes the difference? Exodus 3:1-12 explains that Moses develops a relationship with his God by which he learns better who God is and who he himself is. Moses asks the question, “Who am I?” God answers, “You are the one that I am with.” Moses’ God—OUR God—hears our cries, sees us, and remembers His promises. Moses’ God, in His Grace, has a plan for Moses, and has a mission and

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\*Exodus 2:11-15

11 One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. 12 Looking this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. 13 The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, “Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?”

14 The man said, “Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?” Then Moses was afraid and thought, “What I did must have become known.”

15 When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian, where he sat down by a well.

\*\*Hebrews 11:27-29

27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king’s anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. 28 By faith he kept the Passover and the application of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel. 29 By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.

a plan for you. God reveals Himself to Moses, and within that identity as an intimate of the Living God, Moses makes conscious, God-honoring decisions.

 Don’t be discouraged! Moses becomes the greatest of the prophets, but he is by no means a perfect man. His story shows that he develops, grows in his relationship with God, a process that we shall see in the coming weeks. The key is that Moses is assured that God is with him. And that same God of Israel offers us that same assurance:

1 You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.

2 You know when I sit and when I rise;

 you perceive my thoughts from afar.

3 You discern my going out and my lying down;

 you are familiar with all my ways.

4 Before a word is on my tongue

 you, Lord, know it completely . . .

13 For you created my inmost being;

 you knit me together in my mother’s womb.

14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

 your works are wonderful,

 I know that full well.

15 My frame was not hidden from you

 when I was made in the secret place,

 when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

16 Your eyes saw my unformed body;

 all the days ordained for me were written in your book

 before one of them came to be.

17 How precious to me are your thoughts, God!

 How vast is the sum of them!

18 Were I to count them,

 they would outnumber the grains of sand—

 when I awake, I am still with you.

 Psalm 139:1-4; 13-18.

The same God who appears to Moses in the burning bush, the same God who deals with Pharaoh, the same God who parts the Red Sea—the very same God, strong and mighty, gentle and gracious—chooses to offer each of us assurance. He chooses to deal with us in kindness and patience.

 Family, listen. Look to Moses as an example and make it a constant practice of your life to discover and internalize what God says about YOU. Be about chasing God and living in and for him with deliberation and consciousness (look again at Moses’ decision to reject sin and pursue Godly things). Make choices based on identity in Christ. Be dependent upon Him, and not on self. How, family, do we properly steward God’s promises, the riches of our inheritance? Church, listen. Our faith is more than a hobby. Moses shows us how to live Kingdom-minded in a broken world. According to scripture, we are seated in the heavenly realms. That’s our identity—loved, known, heard, seen by our God. God has made us and is making us into who we are to show the world who HE is. Our identity has purpose. So, I ask the question again: Do you know who you are? As a believer, your identity is marked by obedience, love, and the fruit of the Spirit. To achieve that fullness in Christ, some things of the flesh have to go!

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-25)

Family, God knows you. He is the only one who can and should forge your identity. How do you treat your relationship with Him? Is your response based on who He is? God has not forgotten you. But what do you do with this marvelous truth? Where is your devotion? Do you need to repent of misplaced affections and passions? Assess your life honestly. As we get closer and closer to the return of Christ, where is your devotion?

Passages in Support of this Sermon

Hebrews 11:23-29

23 By faith Moses’ parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king’s edict.

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 Christ 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. 28 By faith he kept the Passover and the application of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.

29 By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.

Exodus 2:1-10

Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, 2 and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. 3 But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. 4 His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.

5 Then Pharaoh’s daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. 6 She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. “This is one of the Hebrew babies,” she said.

7 Then his sister asked Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?”

8 “Yes, go,” she answered. So, the girl went and got the baby’s mother. 9 Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you.” So ,the woman took the baby and nursed him. 10 When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, “I drew him out of the water.”