

Everyone looks forward to something. A baby looks forward to a diaper change. A child looks forward to a special trip to the zoo or a new toy or game on their birthday. A young couple looks forward to their wedding day and the birth of their children. A worker looks forward to vacation or retirement. A grandma and grandpa look forward to seeing their grandkids. Some simply look forward to dinner or a sunny day or another day of grace. Everyone looks forward to something, but that something always passes by. Diapers need to be again changed. Toys break or wear out. Games get boring. Special days become memories. Vacations end. Retirements get tough or boring. Family goes back home, and eventually, life ends. You and I look forward to lots of things, but in this life, so quickly those things come and go. Soon we're looking forward to something else that comes and goes.

Now in Hebrews 11, we hear about a man named Moses. At first glance, you might think he was a fool. He was so blessed and had so much ahead of him in spite of how his life started out. Moses was born at a time when Pharaoh, king of Egypt, the most powerful ruler in the known world at the time, had decreed that every male baby born of Hebrew slaves be thrown into the Nile River. Pharaoh feared an uprising of the nearly two million Hebrew slaves, who had settled in the Nile River Delta centuries before. Moses' parents, however, managed to hide the child for nearly three months until it was impossible to hide him any longer. So his mother prepared a waterproof basket. With tears streaming down her cheeks and final kisses gently touching his as she snuggled with him one last time, Moses' mother placed her baby boy in the basket and let the current of the great river take him to who knew where. That current took the basket down the river to the place where Pharaoh's daughter was bathing. She discovered the basket and was shocked to find a cute little baby boy inside.

She took the little "orphan" in as her own son and even hired a Hebrew slave to nurse the child, never realizing the slave she hired was Moses' real mother. Pharaoh's daughter raised Moses in the royal palace of her powerful father. The boy grew in wisdom and strength and stature. He had a great future ahead of him as "the son of Pharaoh's daughter"—a life of unimaginable wealth, power, and royal luxury. He could've had anything he wanted. That privilege came with a danger connected with it, though. Pharaoh and his household were pagans. In fact, Moses' adopted grandfather would have believed that he was a god and all of Egypt would have believed that with him. Day and night Moses was surrounded by that spiritual propaganda and influence.

But "...Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God..." Yes, Moses had Hebrew roots, but nobody knew that. So why give up everything to join the two million Hebrew slaves in the pits of Egypt making bricks with mud and straw and constructing great cities and monuments under the oppression of the Egyptian taskmasters? Why bring down their mistreatment and oppression on himself?

If this was someone else from any other book, you would think he was a fool. Give up palaces for mud pits? Success for disgrace? Power for slavery? Couldn't he just have gone along with it, and still maintained his relationship with the true God that his mother had taught him about. What a fool to forsake all those pleasures and possibilities!. If you look down on Moses, then what are you really looking forward to? Passing pleasure? Guilty pleasure? Things or a lifestyle that will disappear with age? With illness? With death? This account of Moses condemns you, because you have to ask

yourself the hard, honest questions: What am I really looking forward to? Am I looking forward to the passing pleasures of sin? Of satisfaction I can see and experience right here and now even though they'll pass away? Of messages that assure me that I will have the best life right now, but only leave me empty? Am I really looking forward to something that will leave me with nothing at death or will end in eternity in hell as I forfeit my soul to possess the world? Why did Moses give it all up? The writer of Hebrews provides an answer we can't possibly see with our eyes and worldly expectations. "By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. 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."

Moses gave it all up because he was looking forward to something greater. He gave it all up because "disgrace for the sake of Christ" was more important and of greater worth than all the vast treasures of Egypt—treasures that passed away with the Egyptian rulers who tried to keep them in their cold, dead, mummified hands. Moses was looking forward to something greater than all that—the "reward" of God's grace in Christ Jesus, the "reward" of eternal life in heaven earned solely by the promised Savior who was to come. Moses gave it all up because the coming Christ was more important than absolutely anything else. In Deuteronomy 18:15 Moses spoke about a greater prophet who was coming. With the eye of faith Moses saw the coming Christ and identified with him by joining his people.

Eye-opening, isn't it? There's more! "By faith [Moses] left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is unseen." Forty years before Moses had fled in fear from mighty Pharaoh after murdering an Egyptian, but the Lord made Moses fearless to deliver the Israelites and bring them out of Egypt. By faith Moses looked forward to the Savior who had not yet appeared, but who was coming. "He saw him who is unseen", and that caused Moses to endure and persevere, even when Pharaoh threatened to destroy his people.

In reality, Moses was not a fool! By faith, he knew what lay ahead though it was unseen. By faith, Moses looked past the passing pleasures and treasures of Egypt to the time when a greater Savior would come in love to rescue God's people by enduring even greater disgrace with an even greater sacrifice—himself. By faith, Moses kept the reminder before the people, year after year, with the Passover. The Passover would remind them of deliverance by the blood of a lamb. By faith, Moses knew that by the blood of the Lamb of God, the Lord himself would deliver his people from the slavery of sin and death, so all who believe in him would enjoy the eternal reward of life in heaven. By faith, Moses looked forward to all that wouldn't pass away.

Before you and I can look forward to that which doesn't pass away, we need to look back first. The unseen Christ did fulfill the prophecies and did take on human flesh for you. In fact, Jesus was disgraced for you. He had an eternity of the glories and comforts and power and wealth of heaven, but yet he considered disgrace for you greater than all that for him. He allowed himself to be conceived and born as a human child. His first cradle was a feeding trough. He endured the tough reality of a childhood and adolescence in poverty. When he became an adult, he gained popularity, but as we heard in John 6(:60), many deserted him for his "hard teaching". Those who should've

supported him turned their backs on him in rejection.

Then like a lamb to the slaughter, Jesus allowed his blood to be shed on a cross, and then his dead body placed in a tomb he didn't earn or deserve, yet all for you. Jesus always looked forward not to the time when he would receive his own praises and glory, but to the time when he would rescue you and me from the oppression of sin and death. He gave up everything, so you and I could have more than all the everything in this life and in this world.

This Jesus, however, proved he was more than just another social savior. He proved he's the only source of life when he rose from the dead on the third day. In doing so Jesus earned the eternal reward of heaven for you. For that reason, by looking back, you can look forward to the fulfillment of your salvation—the eternal reward from the unseen Christ.

One of the technological wonders of our generation is night vision goggles. At night even the young eyes of our soldiers would miss so much of what is out on the battle field. It is totally invisible to them. But put on those goggles and the night becomes alive. So is faith, it sees what our eyes cannot see. Moses, through the eyes of faith, saw Christ. Moses' faith saw a future full of great things. He saw a Redeemer who would crush the head of Satan and make Moses righteous in the sight of God. He also saw God sustaining him through everything else that would happen in life so that he knew he would never miss what he left behind for the sake of Christ. Our faith also sees the future full of great things for us. We realize that all around us things are passing away and changing, but Jesus and His Word and his Reward will never pass away. We have a new perspective as we realize every good and perfect gift is from above. The Lord may choose to give and take away, yet he gives us what can never be taken away—the eternal reward of heaven earned by Christ for you.

So how do you want to be known in history? Moses could have had a place in Egyptian History Books. Great Leader! Master Administrator who had foresight to save grain and disburse it. Multi-Millionaire. Lived in a Palace. An Egyptian God. But all that was just passing. It was unimportant to Moses. Rather his faith looked to a future Messiah. Now look at Moses. He is immortalized in God's Word, which endures forever. He was raised from the dead by God. He was privileged to stand on the Mount of Transfiguration next to Jesus. He is in heaven awaiting our arrival.

How do you want to be known? Owned a large house in the Villages. Ran a successful company. Great Dancer at Sumter Landing. Team member on Number 1 water volleyball team. Won 3 Gold metals at the Senior Games. No, all that is passing. I want to be known and you should want to be known as a person of Faith. We have faith in a Savior. We have faith that our undeserved reward is coming, Heaven. Until then, we have faith in our unseen God, who will watch over and care for us. Look forward, people to What Lasts!