

# Hebrews 11:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

## Analysis

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**By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;** At approximately age 40, Moses renounced his privileged position in Egypt's royal household. 'Come to years' (megas genomenos, μέγας γενόμενος, 'having become great' or 'mature') indicates he reached adulthood with full awareness of his choices. He deliberately 'refused' (ērnēsato, ἤρνησατο, 'denied' or 'disowned') the identity, privileges, and future that came with being Pharaoh's daughter's son. This was no impulsive decision but a calculated choice based on faith.

Moses' rejection of Egyptian royalty for Hebrew slavery seems foolish by worldly standards. He traded palace luxury for persecution, political power for poverty, Egypt's treasures for wilderness wandering. Acts 7:22 says Moses 'was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds,' indicating he held significant influence and education. To abandon this required faith that God's purposes and promises held infinitely greater value than earthly comfort and prestige.

This challenges every believer to evaluate what we must refuse or renounce to follow Christ. The world offers identity, security, and pleasure apart from God—we must refuse these if they conflict with kingdom purposes. Moses' example demonstrates that faith counts the cost and still chooses God, trusting that temporary suffering for Christ outweighs permanent pleasure in sin. His choice

foreshadows Christ's own rejection of worldly kingdoms (Matthew 4:8-10) to accomplish redemption through suffering.

## Historical Context

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Egyptian princess found infant Moses in the Nile and raised him in Pharaoh's court (Exodus 2:5-10), providing education in Egyptian wisdom, literature, military arts, and statecraft. Archaeological evidence shows Egyptian princes received elite education in reading, writing, mathematics, architecture, and administration. Moses would have learned hieroglyphics, studied Egyptian religion, and been groomed for high office. Yet at age 40, he chose alignment with enslaved Hebrews over Egyptian privilege, identifying with God's people rather than continuing in luxury. Stephen's sermon (Acts 7:23-29) indicates Moses attempted to deliver Israel before fleeing to Midian, showing his choice preceded God's burning bush call.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. What privileges, identity, or worldly advantages must you 'refuse' to fully follow Christ?
2. How does Moses' example of counting the cost help you evaluate what you're willing to sacrifice for God's kingdom?
3. In what ways does faith require choosing temporary affliction over comfortable compromise?

## Interlinear Text

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Πίστει	Μωσῆς	μέγας	γενόμενος	ἠρνήσατο	λέγεσθαι
<b>By faith</b>	<b>Moses</b>	<b>to years</b>	<b>when he was come</b>	<b>refused</b>	<b>to be called</b>
G4102	G3475	G3173	G1096	G720	G3004
υἱὸς	θυγατὶς	Φαραώ			
<b>the son</b>	<b>daughter</b>	<b>of Pharaoh's</b>			
G5207	G2364	G5328			

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