

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

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 γενομένος, 'having become great' or 'mature') indicates he reached adulthood with full awareness of his choices. He deliberately 'refused' (ērnēsato, ἤρνήσατο, '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

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

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

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

Πίστει Μωσῆς μέγας γενόμενος ἡρυνήσατο λέγεσθαι

By faith Moses to years when he was come refused to be called

G4102

Moses

G3475

to years

G3173 when he was come

G1096

refused

G720

to be called

G3004

υἱὸς θυγατρὸς Φαραώ

the son daughter of Pharaoh's

G5207

daughter

G2364

G5328

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