

## "I WOULD RATHER SUFFER THAN SIN"

### Int.

1. Aim: To show how Moses made a wise decision in choosing to suffer rather than to sin.
2. **Heb. 11:23-27**
3. Great chapter about heroes of faith - Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph
4. Moses is our main example in this lesson
  - a. Early life - parents had to hide him - Pharaoh's daughter raised him
  - b. Refused to be called her son - Acts 7:23-24
  - c. He chose to suffer NOT sin - v. 25
5. Notice Moses and some others who chose suffering instead of sin and why we should do the same in our life.

### Discussion

#### I. MOSES EXAMPLE

- A. Refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter - v. 24
  1. Acts 7:23-25 -
    - a. He did this when he was grown - 40 years old
    - b. His mother no doubt had taught him very early about his true identity
  2. He made a tremendous sacrifice
    - a. He was a man of great natural genius
    - b. Wealth, pleasure and power were within his reach
    - c. He might have become a great statesman - in that day and time Egypt was the most powerful of earthly kingdoms
    - d. The world would say he made a poor choice

B. Chose to suffer with the people of God - v. 25

1. He had identified himself with a nation of slaves
2. He was in close contact with ignorant unlearned slaves
3. His life was at risk - Ex. 2:15 - Pharaoh sought to slay him - this was after Moses had killed the Egyptian slave driver
4. He well knew that the Israelites were ill treated - they were slaves who were treated in a cruel way -
5. It was a choice between temporary vanity and eternal glory, and Moses chose rightly,

C. Rather than enjoy pleasures of sin for a season - v. 25

1. These are the gratifications prohibited by God - 1 Jn. 2:15-16
2. There is pleasure in some of the things which are divinely prohibited.
3. All of these pleasures Moses put aside - he turned away from them
4. Faith in God causes one to see the foolishness of sin ...
  - a. The pleasures of sin, and glitter of wickedness soon fades.
  - b. It is a season or an eternity that is our choice, and faith makes the difference.

D. Reproach of Christ - V. 26

1. Reproach - ridicule, discredit, disgrace, scorn, rebuke
2. It is a reproach like Christ's...
  - a. As He, though rich, became poor to redeem mankind,
  - b. So Moses despised the treasures of Egypt to deliver Israel.

E. Greater riches than the treasures in Egypt - V. 26

1. Reproach was of greater value -
2. Moses no doubt would have received great riches had he stayed in Egypt as the son of Pharaoh's daughter

F. Recompense of reward - V. 26

1. Recompense = "to give something to by way of compensation (as for a service rendered or damage incurred" - Webster
2. Reward - Moses looked forward to the fulfilment of the promises made unto their fathers:
  - a. That they should possess the land of Canaan
  - b. That they would be a great nation
  - c. In them all nations would be blessed.

G. He Forsook Egypt - V. 27 "By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible." Heb. 11:27

1. He did this by Faith
2. But his reward was more than the earthly - it was the eternal - everlasting life !

## II. BIBLE CHARACTERS WHO SUFFERED INSTEAD OF SINNING

### A. Jeremiah

1. Jer. 15:15 "O LORD, thou knowest: remember me, and visit me, and revenge me of my persecutors; take me not away in thy longsuffering: know that for thy sake I have suffered rebuke."
2. The Israelites were sinful and received punishment
3. This suffering was felt by Jeremiah also
4. Yet he would rather suffer than sin

### B. Joseph

1. Gen. 39:7-20
2. Woman lied about him - he was cast into prison
3. He chose suffering rather than sin.

### C. Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego

1. Daniel 3
2. Were told to worship the Golden Image or be cast into fiery furnace
3. They would rather suffer than sin, so God spared them

### D. Daniel

1. Daniel 6
2. He was told not to pray to God or he would be cast into a den of lions !
3. But he would rather suffer than sin, and God spared him from any harm !

## E. Job

1. Job. 1:22 "In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly."
2. Job suffered a lot of affliction and heartache
3. But he would rather suffer than sin, because he was a man of God

## F. Paul and Silas

1. Acts 16:22-24 "And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat [them]. 23 And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast [them] into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: 24 Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks."
2. After causing evil spirit to depart from man
  - a. Owners were mad - brought them to the magistrate
  - b. Beat them with many stripes - Inner prison with stocks on their feet
3. They would rather suffer than sin

## G. Stephen

1. Acts 6:9-7:60
2. Preached to the people
  - a. They were cut to the heart - Gnashed on him with their teeth
  - b. Mobbed him - all rushed in on him
  - c. Threw him out of the city - Stoned him to death and left him
3. Yet in all of this he sinned not - he would rather suffer than sin

## H. Christ

### 1. Temptations

- a. Matt. 4
- b. Heb. 5:8-9 "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; 9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;"
- c. Heb. 4:15 "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as [we are, yet] without sin."
- d. Tempted - but did not yield

### 2. His crucifixion demonstrated that he would rather suffer than sin !

## **III. WHY WE SHOULD CHOOSE TO SUFFER RATHER THAN SIN**

### A. Scriptures to encourage us

- 1. 1 Pet. 4:19 "Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls [to him] in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator."
- 2. 1 Pet. 4:15-16 "But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or [as] a thief, or [as] an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. 16 Yet if [any man suffer] as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf."

3. 1 Pet. 3:14-17 "But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy [are ye]: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; 15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and [be] ready always to [give] an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: 16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. 17 For [it is] better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing."
4. 1 Pet. 2:20 "For what glory [is it], if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer [for it], ye take it patiently, this [is] acceptable with God."
- B. Rev. 2:10 "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast [some] of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."
- C. Lk. 9:23-24 "And he said to [them] all, If any [man] will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. 24 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it."

#### **IV. Examples of Times When We May Have to Suffer Rather than Sin**

##### A. Young people

1. Youthful sins - drinking, drugs, sexual impurity, cursing, cheating
2. II Tim. 2:22 "Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

##### B. Young married couples

1. Raising a family involves many problems - sometimes the mothers and fathers do not live as a Christian - Marriage - Parenting
2. Tit. 2:4-8 - instructions for young women and young men

##### C. Older people

1. Older people do not live a life free of temptation
2. Grow weary in well doing - give up the Christian life - Gal. 6:9
3. Get caught up in the trials and burdens of life - heartaches
  - a. Tit. 2:2 - Aged men "That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience."
  - b. Tit. 2:3 - Aged women "The aged women likewise, that [they be] in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;"
4. All of us have to make the choice - will we suffer for doing right? Or will we sin?

## Conclusion

1. I Would Rather Suffer Than Sin
  - a. Matt. 6:33 "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."
  - b. Heb. 11:25 Pleasures of sin are only for a season
  - c. Job. 20:5 "That the triumphing of the wicked [is] short, and the joy of the hypocrite [but] for a moment?"
2. It is much better to suffer affliction than to sin, in the long run it will be worth it.
3. Let us model our life after these Godly men we have named here and choose suffering not sin !
4. You can't loose when you choose to suffer instead of sinning.
5. Song: Heaven will surely be worth it all

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