

**2022 Theme - Extraordinary God + Ordinary People = Transformed Lives**

**Sermon Series - Transformed Leadership (Moses)**

**Sermon Title - Transformed Leadership Through What You Value**

**Sermon Text - Hebrews 11:26**

**Sermon Presenter - Pastor Larry**

### **Full Sermon Notes**

“With a thousand hallelujahs, We magnify Your name You alone deserve the glory

The honor and the praise Lord Jesus this song is forever Yours”

Back when I was a youth evangelist, I remember a teenager asking me one time this question:

“When we get to heaven is all we’re going to do is worship the Lord? Seems like we’re going to get bored!” First of all I believe we’re going to be so amazed and overwhelmed with just being there, bored is not something I can imagine in heaven. Listen to John’s description of what he saw when God gave him a glimpse into glory...

Revelation 5:11 Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders.

Revelation 5:12 In a loud voice they were saying: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”

Revelation 5:13 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!”

When you personally get to know Jesus, The Lamb who was slain in order to save you and you experience Him in true worship, you’ll know heaven’s not going to be boring! Amen. But meanwhile, back here on earth, we’ve got some important things to learn as we live here and Especially if we’re going to live lives that worship God through transformed leadership! So let’s pray and ask God to teach us some powerful lessons from Moses’ life and commitment! Let’s pray!

We discovered in the last two weeks that Moses was a leader who had been transformed by finding his identity in his relationship with God, and then by rejecting the fleeting pleasures of this world! Today we continue the theme of Moses’ transformed leadership by looking at what he valued the most! This is another important and foundational aspect of his becoming the man of God whom God would use to lead the people of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt. Folks, I want you to realize that we need the same kind of transformed leadership today. But someone might say, “but we’re not in bondage or slavery like the Hebrews were to the Egyptians.” To which I would reply: “We may be more in slavery and bondage than the Hebrews ever were! Especially when you consider the spiritual bondage and slavery to sin that has overtaken much of our society today! It’s hard to comprehend! And here’s something to think about: At least the Hebrew people knew they were enslaved. People today think they are free when they are in fact tragically chained and blinded by their sin. They value things that have no lasting value and

bring no lasting purpose or peace. Their false gods and their attachments to the things of this world leave them wanting, hurting and sometimes disillusioned to the point of becoming enraged and allowing evil to take control of their very being! It's tragic and we need Christian men and women to allow God to bring the principles of transformed leadership into their lives in order to be an example to those around them of true freedom, peace, purpose and meaning in life! Hopefully others will see what we've got and realize they need what we have: a relationship with the One True Creator God! People will not always accept our witness, our testimony, and may ridicule and despise us. But we want them to see that we have something of far greater value than the world could ever offer! We will see in our text for today that Moses' transformed leadership came from what he valued what he devalued and why. Our text says...

Hebrews 11:26 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.

### **1. What Moses Valued Greatly - "disgrace for the sake of Christ"**

Moses lived in the Old Testament way before Jesus ever lived, but we know God had revealed some amazing things to him. We don't know everything that God revealed to Moses, but we do know that he and God had a very powerful relationship. We know that God spoke to him in the burning bush and later on Mount Sinai. But we know that God had obviously spoken to Moses even before the burning bush. The way we know this is because of the words found in the New Testament where Stephen spoke to a group of Jewish Elders known as the Sanhedrin. This speech came after the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. Here's what he said...

Acts 7:22 Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action.

Acts 7:23 "When Moses was forty years old, he decided to visit his own people, the Israelites.

Acts 7:24 He saw one of them being mistreated by an Egyptian, so he went to his defense and avenged him by killing the Egyptian.

Acts 7:25 Moses thought that his own people would realize that God was using him to rescue them, but they did not.

God had put it on Moses' heart to visit his own people and then after defending the mistreated Hebrews he was surprised they didn't realize God was using him to rescue them! So it stands to reason that God had already told Moses He was going to use him to deliver His people. And again, we don't know to what extent God had revealed future plans to Moses about the coming Messiah, but we see the writer of our text in Hebrews state...

Hebrews 11:26 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.

B.H. Carroll, the late President of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, in Fort Worth, TX stated this in "An Interpretation of The English Bible" back in 1948...

“That a revelation from God came to Moses. This we infer from ‘it coming into his heart to visit his people,’ and from his supposition that they would understand that he was their deliverer. There is no record in history prior to this time that he was appointed deliverer. Nothing but a revelation from God can account for the tremendous and instantaneous change in him.”

So we don’t know exactly what God revealed to Moses but we know from Scripture that he understood enough to look forward by faith that a greater deliverer, a Messiah, would some day come into the world. When I first came to the Lord, I used to listen to a preacher by the name of Oliver B. Greene. He had a program called “The Gospel Hour.” He taught with such conviction and depth. It truly inspired me as a young believer. One year he spent eight months preaching through the Book of Hebrews. Two hundred and forty 30 minute broadcasts. I have a book he published of his messages on Hebrews, around 600 pages. I just couldn’t say it any better so if you will allow me, I want to share his insights on this. He was using the King James Version.

Hebrews 11:26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

Oliver Greene said...

“The Greek word here translated ‘esteeming’ could have been rendered ‘accounting,’ and the tense of the verb is expressive of ‘a single and resolute act as the result of a decisive estimate.’ Notice the verse says ‘the reproach OF Christ,’ not ‘reproach for Christ.’ It means the scoffing and mockery which Christ endured. His faithful followers have endured (and will endure) that same reproach so long as the devil remains out of the pit: ‘Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.’ 2 Timothy 3:13. Though Moses did not see Christ clearly with the natural eye, he anticipated His coming long before He came. Christ was made manifest to the Old Testament prophets. Paul tells us that ‘they did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ’ (1 Cor. 10:4). Jesus said to the Pharisees, ‘Had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me’ (John 5:46). Moses wrote about Jesus although he never saw Him with the human eye. Moses lived centuries before the Savior was born, but he counted the reproach of Christ as more gain to him than anything Egypt held.”

So what do you value most in life? Do you regard the Cross of Christ and what He did on that Cross for you to be the most valuable thing in life? Are you willing to esteem above all else the fact that you have the privilege to suffer alongside Jesus? Peter put it this way...

1 Peter 4:12 Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

1 Peter 4:13 But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

1 Peter 4:14 If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

1 Peter 4:15 If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler.

1 Peter 4:16 However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.

The Revised Standard Version of the Bible translates our text this way...

Hebrews 11:26 He considered abuse suffered for the Christ greater wealth...

The Broadman Bible Commentary states this...

“Concerning the phrase, abuse suffered for the Christ, James Moffatt points out: “By identifying himself with God’s people in Egypt, Moses encountered the same [abuse] as their very messiah afterwards was to endure. He thus faced what the writer, from his own standpoint, does not hesitate to call [the abuse of Christ]” (p. 180). For he looked to the reward—he had his eyes on the future. This described the attitude of one whose eyes are withdrawn from everything else and focused on one single thing.”

Charles A. Trentham, “Hebrews,” in Hebrews—Revelation, ed. Clifton J. Allen, Broadman Bible Commentary (Broadman Press, 1972), 82–83.

“Focused on one thing!” Moses was focused on God and His promise of deliverance not only for the Hebrew people out of Egypt, but for the future deliverance that would come through Jesus Christ the Messiah! Moses would not have fully understood all of the things that would happen through Jesus. He couldn’t fully imagine the things he would have in common with Jesus, like the fact that he would himself be questioned and ridiculed as he sought to deliver the people from their bondage and slavery, just as Jesus was questioned by His family, by the religious leaders of His day and then by Pontious Pilate before His crucifixion on the cross. But God had obviously revealed some pretty amazing things to Moses.

Followers of Christ still today focus on the Cross of Jesus and for good reason! We don’t worship the cross but we do bear it, carry it, and cherish it because of our Savior who died upon it! It’s what the cross symbolizes (the heart and love of God), It’s what it stands for (undeserved mercy), it’s what it means (forgiveness), it’s what it is used for (to remind us of the price paid for our sin) and (to crucify the flesh and it’s wicked desires), it’s what it represents (life eternal), it is no longer I but Christ who lives in me) it’s what it does(it encourages and empowers).

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

I love the old hymn by Isaac Watts that says...

When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of glory died,

My richest gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride.  
Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the death of Christ my God!  
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.

Back when we first started the church we had a young man ask us this: “When are you guys going to get off this Jesus kick?” I told him, “We are not! Ever! He is the reason we exist! Our very purpose is to see the One who gave His life for us exalted and the ones He gave His life for transformed!” And we also had a motivation statement when we first started and I pray that it will always be our motivation as a church...

We are motivated by the supreme example of Jesus’ life on the earth and the extreme sacrifice of His death upon the Cross!

As I said, when people see that we are followers of Christ they may ridicule us, distance themselves from us, and ostracize us. When they first see the things we value, they may make fun of us and poke fun. Especially when we find our identity in our relationship with God and walk away from the fleeting pleasures of sin. And when we refuse to do something that goes against our values even though it costs us financially or positionally in this life, people in the world really don’t understand that! Jesus said...

“Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. “Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.”  
Luke 6:22-23 NIV

I know it’s not easy, but hang in there. Continue to be a witness to them, pray for them and love them anyway! It may be years later, but they may eventually remember and think about your commitment to Jesus and come to respect it! They may realize that the things of this world have never brought them the satisfaction they expected and may begin to desire what they’ve seen in your life. Your stability, your joy, your strength, your purpose and your hope even in the midst of really hard things in life. I had a guy that went to highschool with me and some years ago I got a Facebook message from him. He said back in Highschool he thought I was crazy, but that he respected the fact that I held on to my convictions and beliefs no matter what. He stated that he had since come to faith in Christ and wished that he had done so a lot sooner in life.

Moses had his detractors but he valued suffering for the sake of Christ above all else and God used it to transform his ability to lead others in the ways of God! Let’s read our text again...

Hebrews 11:26 He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt...

## **2. What Moses devalued completely - “The treasures of Egypt”**

B.H. Carroll again weighs in...

“...here is a mature man, the best educated of his age, ‘learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians,’ a man...mighty in words and works, occupying the highest social position even a prince of the greatest nation then on earth. All pleasures bidding for his enjoyment of them, on mature reflection, carefully weighing the moral qualities of human action and pushing his investigations to the eternal outcome, deliberately refuses all earthly honor, pleasures, and treasures, and casts his lot with a generation of despised slaves.”

Moses became a transformed leader because of what he valued and what he devalued! He led by example! He knew “All that glitters is not gold!” Moses had an insider’s knowledge of the life of power, prestige and fortune, and he walked away! We talked extensively two weeks ago about how Moses found his identity not in his position as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, or in the power, prestige, and possessions his place in life afforded him! He found his identity in the fact that God knew him and he knew God! And then last week we discovered that Moses also walked away from the fleeting pleasures of sin that were available to him. He knew all too well the temporary nature of that kind of pleasure and the extremely high cost it enacts on those who fall prey to its temptations. So I’m not going to preach those two sermons, but I do want to emphasize that Moses had come to devalue the things that people of his day and of our day think would make them happy if they only had the treasures, and pleasures others have. But once again, Moses had inside knowledge of the rich and the famous of his day, and he chose to walk away, choosing instead to regard disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt!

Do you ever find yourself with a case of the if-lys? If I only had that, or could do that, or could be that, then I would really be happy! If I were rich and famous, I would have it made. The treasures of Egypt sure have their appeal. One of the Psalmists, Asaph once struggled with the “if onlys!” He said this...

Psalm 73:1 Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.

Psalm 73:2 But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold.

Psalm 73:3 For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

Psalm 73:4 They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong.

Psalm 73:5 They are free from common human burdens; they are not plagued by human ills.

He goes on to say this in verse 12...

Psalm 73:12 This is what the wicked are like— always free of care, they go on amassing wealth.

Psalm 73:13 Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure and have washed my hands in innocence.

Psalm 73:14 All day long I have been afflicted, and every morning brings new punishments.

I think this verse is where the saying, “No good deed goes unpunished!” might have originated! But watch what Asaph says in verse 16 and 17...

Psalm 73:16 When I tried to understand all this, it troubled me deeply

Psalms 73:17 till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.

Like Moses, Asaph has an aha moment and realizes the things those folks put their hope in have no eternal value, only eternal sorrow. Asaph enters the sanctuary of God and has a worship experience with God and gets it! Like Moses, he understands that the treasures of this world have little value when viewed through the eyes of God!

We need to let God help us have some aha moments so we can understand the final destiny of those who have no regard for God, for others, for human life, or for things such as mercy, justice, and humility. People who care nothing for the needs of others, but only themselves. And here's a couple of things I try to never forget: First of all, except for the grace of God that would be me! I was once there and I shudder to think of my life without the forgiveness, grace, mercy and love of Jesus that changed everything in my life! And the second thing I try to never forget is this: If the wicked will heed the call of God to repent then they can be forgiven and walk away from their wicked ways and begin living a new life with regards to God and others! I know because it happened to me! God wants the ungodly to repent and be saved. He said so in Ezekiel 18:23...

Ezekiel 18:23 Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? declares the Sovereign LORD. Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live?

God wants people to live real life! Not bound up in slavery or bondage to the things of this world, but to have a personal relationship with God and better relationships with their fellow human beings. Can I get really practical with you for just a minute? When God's Word talks about rejection of the world and its treasures, it's talking about rejecting the priorities of the world! We live in this world and there's certain things we need to live in this world. We need clothing, food and money to survive. Sometimes people quote Scripture wrong when they say "Money is the root of all evil." Here's what God's Word actually says...

1 Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

"The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil." So it's not money itself, it's the value we place on it and where it ends up on our priority list! We all need resources to pay our bills and to purchase the basic necessities for life. And I don't think God says we can never have a little spending money for a hobby, (I'm still working on my old 48 chevy pickup I've had for 36 years, and I've got some wonderful folks helping me.) Here's a picture of it...

Picture of truck.

Hoping to make Cruisin the Coast. Hey, I believe in miracles! And I don't think it's wrong to go out to a nice restaurant every once in a while or buy a new set of clothes or shoes when you need them. And remember this: Pleasure is not bad in and of itself! God created the concept of pleasure, but without proper priorities our pleasures become sinful and can take over our life.

Pleasure outside the guidelines of God's principles become burdens, and will enslave and destroy! For example: food is something we must have to live and it is to be enjoyed, but our appetite, if not controlled, can become gluttonous and do great harm. Jesus said it best when He said...

Matthew 6:31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'

Matthew 6:32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

Matthew 6:33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 6:34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

It all comes down to what you value most in life. What you value most can be seen by your priorities because what you value most determines your priorities! People prioritize what they value most! Your priorities are discovered when you take a look at where you spend the resources of your time, your energy, your talent, and your money. I've learned a secret. You can enjoy the things God has blessed you with more if you don't allow them to become your priority. Because if you lose everything, you still have your most valuable possession, your relationship with God! Moses lost everything when he walked away from the treasures of Egypt and chose instead to suffer disgrace for the sake of Christ by siding with the Hebrew slaves! God used that choice to transform Moses into one of the greatest leaders of all time, and if you're willing to make the same choice God will transform your ability to lead your family and others who are watching your life! And they are watching, especially if you call yourself a Christ follower.

And here's another important truth to understand: People value what they believe will bring them the greatest reward and satisfaction in life! With this in mind I want us to look at our last point.

### **3. Why Moses made the decisions he made - "because he was looking ahead to his reward"**

Hebrews 11:26 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.

Once again I want to quote Evangelist Oliver B. Greene...

"Moses looked forward to that glorious day when all who have suffered for Christ's sake will be rewarded abundantly. If we confess Jesus He will confess us. If we suffer with Him we will reign with Him. Even a cup of cold water given in His name will not go unrewarded. If we are faithful in small things He will make us ruler over much. Faithful stewards of God will be rewarded with riches and glory such as this world knows nothing of."

The world's view does not include eternal reward. They look only for the here and now! And they try to avoid disgrace at all cost, and look for acceptance, status, position, popularity, and applause! But in the end they fall victim to disgrace because everything they believed in, hoped for, and valued, comes tumbling down. Their reward is temporary at best, fleeting, and disappointing! Even so, the world will ridicule you for your Godly priorities and values. They will heap abuse on you. Make fun of you! But, like Moses, we are looking forward to a greater reward certainly in heaven, but not only in heaven! There's great reward for following Christ and suffering for the cause of Christ even in this life! Being willing to suffer ridicule and abuse for the cause of Christ is one of the best decisions you'll ever make, because God has promised to reward those who earnestly seek Him. Remember, it's in Hebrews chapter 11...

Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

If we value the things of God, and earnestly seek Him and are willing, like Moses, to regard disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of this world then we can know that God will show us what really matters in this life, the true treasures of this life. And you might be wondering what some of those treasures are! Paul tells us this in Colossians...

Colossians 3:12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Colossians 3:13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Colossians 3:14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Colossians 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

Colossians 3:16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

What a list! And those things we don't have to wait for heaven to receive. But what about our eternal reward? Paul said it beautifully...

2 Corinthians 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

2 Corinthians 4:17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

2 Corinthians 4:18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

When Jesus went to the Cross He was focusing on the eternal! How do I know that? Hebrews 12:2

Hebrews 12:2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

The joy was that you and I could someday be with Him in glory! And what a price He paid for that Joy! When the writer of Hebrews was talking about Moses regarding the abuse suffered by Jesus, he was pointing to the brutality of the cross and the events that led up to the cross. There's another old hymn that I dearly love. My three kids went together and bought me this beautiful piece of art from a calligrapher for Father's Day and for my birthday this year. It is the lyrics to the Old Rugged Cross by George Bennard...

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, The emblem of suffering and shame  
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best, For a world of lost sinners was slain  
So I'll cherish the old rugged cross (rugged cross), Till my trophies at last I lay down  
I will cling to the old rugged cross, And exchange it some day for a crown  
To the old rugged cross I will ever be true, It's shame and reproach gladly bear  
Then he'll call me some day to my home far away, Where his glory forever I'll share  
And I'll cherish the old rugged cross (rugged cross), Till my trophies at last I lay down  
And I will cling to the old rugged cross, And exchange it some day for a crown  
I will cling to the old rugged cross, And exchange it some day for a crown

I'll close with the artist's explanation of the painting of these lyrics...

"Verse by verse, this beloved hymn is designed within the context of a cross, each line composed of various calligraphic scripts to richly emphasize its meaning. Much of the calligraphic portion is made up of a script called "Fraktur," a German letterform meaning, "broken" which was purposefully applied here as Christ, the Word, was broken on the cross. Surrounding the outline of the cross is abundant flourishing acanthus leaf which clings to the cross, just as we also cling to the emblem of suffering and shame.

Acanthus leaf has long served as a symbol of ongoing friendship and/or relationship, especially within the art of heraldic tradition. Here, too, the acanthus leaf represents the friendship we have with God the Father through the Son of Man, securing our eternal heritage through his bloodshed.

The title of the hymn is painted to look like alabaster — a medium long-known for its significance of surrender. The alabaster flask we are most familiar with is the one we remember in the account of Matthew, Mark and again in Luke. Jesus' anointing at Bethany is a lavish act of surrender and worship — & the broken alabaster not only foreshadows Christ's broken body and the outpouring of His fragrance, but it reaches back to significance found as a traditional wedding gift (and we smile knowing Jesus is the Bridegroom coming for His Bride!) All at once, the alabaster flask is a wedding gift, a preparation for burial, and all-out worship.

Every color is intentionally chosen for this piece. For example, the color purple adorns the Fraktur letterforms as it is traditionally known for its representation of royalty, ultimately pointing to Christ as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords (1 Tim. 6:15, Rev. 19:16). Green chosen for the acanthus leaf represents the promise of life abundant fulfilled in Christ's coming (John 10:10). Gold leaf adorns the verse, "So I'll cling to the Old Rugged Cross" and the word, "crown" to symbolize eternal glory."

Jake Weidmann - Artist