

Choices; Hebrews 11:24-25

I. Choices

- a. We are presented with choices every day.
- b. These choices determine our path.

II. Between a Rock...

- a. Israel becomes enslaved.
 - i. Exodus 1:8–10 (ESV) ⁸ Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. ⁹ And he said to his people, “Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us. ¹⁰ Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and, if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.”
 - ii. The Egyptian king oppressed the Israelites and forced them to build cities for him.
 - iii. That did not work, and the Israelites continued to multiply.
 - iv. Verse 12 says the Egyptians were “in dread of the people of Israel.”
 - v. Instead of forced labor, they became slaves to Egypt.
 - vi. Verse 14 says the Egyptians “made their lives bitter with hard service.”
- b. The Egyptian king kills Israelite babies.
 - i. Exodus 1:15–16 (ESV) ¹⁵ Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶ “When you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, you shall kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live.”
 - ii. The midwives refused to do this because they feared God more than the King of Egypt.
 - iii. Exodus 1:22 (ESV) ²² Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall cast into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live.”
- c. Put yourself in Jochebed’s place.
 - i. She is pregnant and close to giving birth.
 - ii. All the people of Egypt have the authority to kill your baby if it is a son.
 - iii. I cannot imagine the anxiety she must have felt.
 - iv. Then she gives birth, and to her dismay, it is a boy, and she must hide him.
 - v. What happens when she can no longer hide the baby?
 - vi. In her mind, the only way to save her baby is to put him in a basket and place him among the reeds where an Egyptian would find him.
 - vii. Either as the father or mother of this baby, the decisions must be heart-rending!
 1. Who is going to find the baby?
 2. Will they kill him?
 3. She is truly between a rock and a hard place!
 - viii. To me, Miriam is the hero in this story.
 1. She decides to stay and watch to see who will find the baby and what they will do.
 2. Exodus 2:6–7 (ESV) ⁶ When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby was crying. She took pity on him and said, “This is one of the Hebrews’

children.”⁷ Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and call you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?”

- d. I can imagine all the things that Jochebed was able to teach Moses, especially considering Hebrews 11:24-25.

III. The Lap of Luxury

- a. Acts 7:20–23 (ESV)²⁰ At this time Moses was born; and he was beautiful in God’s sight. And he was brought up for three months in his father’s house,²¹ and when he was exposed, Pharaoh’s daughter adopted him and brought him up as her own son.²² And Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was mighty in his words and deeds.²³ “When he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brothers, the children of Israel.
- b. Moses lived as a prince of Egypt for 40 years!
 - i. He was “instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians.”
 - ii. He knew about all the gods that the Egyptians worshiped.
 - iii. He was exposed to the Egyptian religion for 37 years (it is commonly believed that the Hebrew women weaned their babies at three years)
- c. Moses had a choice.
 - i. He could choose to worship with the Egyptians or remain steadfast with God.
 - ii. Hebrews 11:24–26 (ESV)²⁴ By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter,²⁵ choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.²⁶ He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.
 - iii. Egypt was a wealthy nation (they gave all their gold and jewels to the Israelites as they were leaving).
 - iv. Exodus 2:11–12 (ESV)¹¹ One day, when Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and looked on their burdens, and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his people.¹² He looked this way and that, and seeing no one, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.
- d. Moses had a choice; a life of luxury and lies or a life dedicated to God and truth.

IV. Life and Choices

- a. We make these choices out to be hard, and they can be, sometimes.
 - i. I think of Joseph when Potiphar’s wife confronted him.
 - ii. It was difficult for a young man (17 to mid-20s).
 - iii. Joseph chose to be loyal to God.
- b. They are only complicated when we allow our selfishness to get in the way.
 - i. Moses said it best as he closes his message about blessing and cursing in Deuteronomy 28-30.
 - ii. Deuteronomy 30:19–20 (ESV)¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live,²⁰ loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

- c. Moses says, "Choose life."
 - i. Loving God.
 - 1. The greatest commandment, love the LORD your God with all your heart, soul, and might (Deuteronomy 6:5).
 - 2. Jesus repeats this and adds, "On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 22:40).
 - 3. The greatest commandment is timeless and defines us as Christians; they will know we are His disciples by our love for one another.
 - ii. Obeying His voice.
 - 1. We must have the obedience of faith (Romans 1:5 and 16:26).
 - 2. In 1 Samuel 15, God tells Saul to destroy Amalek.
 - 3. Saul does not obey the Lord but tells Samuel that he kept the animals and the king to sacrifice them to God.
 - 4. 1 Samuel 15:22 (ESV) ²² And Samuel said, "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams.
 - iii. Holding fast to Him.
 - 1. Hebrews 4:14 (ESV) ¹⁴ Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.
 - 2. We can let go of everything else.
 - 3. Hold fast to the only one who can save us.
- d. If we examine our choices considering these things, they are not that hard.

V. Choose Life!

- a. When life presents you with choices, choose life.
- b. Don't let your circumstances move you from making the right choice (Jochebed).
- c. Don't let society move you from making the right choices (Moses).
- d. Choose life!
 - i. Love God.
 - ii. Obey God.
 - iii. Hold fast to God.