Intro: 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. 27 By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. Hebrews 11:23-27

° 15 And Moses said to his father-in-law, “Because the people come to me to inquire of God; 16 when they have a dispute, they come to me and I decide between one person and another, and I make them know the statutes of God and his laws.” Exodus 18:15-16

• In Hebrews 11:23-27 we are introduced to Moses, and the particular emphasis made on the decision, or decisions, in which Moses’ faith helped him to make. Every child of God is called upon to make decisions. All through our Christian life, decisions should be made which affect God’s glory and our own lives. Moses’ life is divided in three stages: 1. His first 40 yrs. Was his young immature stage, from age 40 to 80 was his middle age experienced stage, his last years 80 to 120 was his senior wisdom stage.

I. Moses’ growing pains Decisions – Moses’ first 40 years chapt. 2

a. Moses decided to stand with God’s people – 24 By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter

• Even immature Christians can make right decisions sometimes, and mature Christian can make wrong decisions. It is the consistency in which you live your Christian life determines how mature or immature you are.

b. Moses decided to kill a man and hide his sin – 12 He looked this way and that, and seeing no one, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. Exodus 2:12 Read the comments

• Moses may have had good intentions, but he went about it the wrong way. Killing someone just because you don’t like what they do is now and has always been wrong, or a sin. Those who blow up abortion clinics in the name of justice, or those who bomb police stations in the name of freedom are both wrong and murders, no matter how well intended you may think they are.

• He is tired of running; he knows what God is wanting him to do. Decided to go back to Egypt knowing that there is no expiration date on murder. So, something changed, what was it? God stepped into the picture and that is what changed him. Moses had a live changing experience on the Mountain of the burning bush.

c. Let’s face it Moses was a rebel in his youth

1. He was a political resister of Egypt

2. He was a hot headed and angry person

• Not much has changed today. People will pick race over love for one another every time they need to make a point. This race is mad at that race of because they have been mistreated, and that race is mad at this race because they get special privileges they don’t get. Both sides fills oppressed by each other without any respect for each other’s way of looking at things. All races feel like they must dominate over the other, but we all forget something there is only one race and that is the human race.

° 16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. John 3:16, 17

II. Moses’ Mature Decisions years – 40 – 80 yrs. Chapt. 3 – 20

a. Moses decided to run away from his problems – 15 When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses.

But Moses fled from Pharaoh and stayed in the land of Midian. And he sat down by a well. Exodus 2:15

• This would be the time for Moses to take a stand, but he was not spiritually ready to do that. Running away to clear your head is not always bad. A jolt in the desert, away from everything that is bad, is sometimes a good thing. But Moses was not running away to clear his mind, he was running because he committed a crime and didn’t want to die for it.

b. Moses decided to live in a dessert – 1 Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. Exodus 3:1, 2

• Surely no one will find me out here in the desert. Miles from Pharoh, family, and God. No more “you’re the chosen one to lead”, just me my sheep, my wife and kids, and the desert. You may think you

can run from God but just remember who created the world. God knows every crook and cranny, every hiding place, where one can hide. You know it because he created them.

c. Moses decided to accept God’s Call –19 And the Lord said to Moses in Midian, “Go back to Egypt, for all the men who were seeking your life are dead.” 20 So Moses took his wife and his sons and had them ride on a donkey and went back to the land of Egypt. And Moses took the staff of God in his hand. Exodus 4:19, 20

d. Moses’ decision to follow God’s instructions

1. He followed God’s instructions during the 10 plagues

2. He was patient in waiting on the Lord

3. He made decision in the face of danger – red sea

4. His never wavering faith was He strength

• How hard is it for us to follow instructions? It is difficult for most of us to follow instructions given to us by someone else. We must make a conscious decision to do so. We must follow by faith even when we don’t understand the instructions that are given. It is a crucial part of being a Chirstian, choosing to decide to follow God word even when we don’t understand the full picture of what Christ is doing.

° 7 Jesus answered him, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.” John 13:7

e. Moses’ decided to write a song of worship – Ex. 15

• They had just come across the Red Sea, the 400 yrs. of slavery are over, and God had just had Israel’s enemy a sound defeat. Hope was high and a new day is a head. So, what was their first act that they did? They worshipped by singing a song, I believe, Moses wrote. Probably one of the fewest things they did right. They worshipped and praised God.

° 1 Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord, saying, “I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea. 2 The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him. Exodus 15:1, 2

f. Moses decided to stand in the gap for Israel – Ex. 15:25, 26

• This is important to note. This had happened twice. This is the first time where Israel was facing thirst for lack of water. The second time this happened is found in Numbers 20. In the first case Moses stood in the gap, prayed and did exactly what the Lord said. The second time he did not do what the Lord said exactly, and God still blessed them with water, but it cost Moses the joy entering the promise land firsthand.

° 4 So Moses cried to the Lord, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” 5 And the Lord said to Moses, “Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. 6 Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.” And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. 7 And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the Lord by saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?” Exodus 17:4-7

° 7 and the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 8 “Take the staff, and assemble the congregation, you and Aaron your brother, and tell the rock before their eyes to yield its water. So you shall bring water out of the rock for them and give drink to the congregation and their cattle.” 9 And Moses took the staff from before the Lord, as he commanded him. 11 And Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock with his staff twice, and water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their livestock. Numbers 20:7-9, 11

III. Moses’ Wisdom Decisions – 80 -120 Ex. 21 – Deu. 34

a. God gave the Law - Moses’ implemented it

• If you think that implementing the word of God is not decision based, you have not pastored a church. I must make decisions on what to preach, what direction to lead the church, on dealing with cranky and disrespectful church members, and people who think they know how to lead the church more than you.

b. Moses lead the children in the dessert for 40 years

• Israel doubted the Lord and how to take Canaan, except for Joshua and Caleb, and it cost them 40 yrs. in the wilderness. This includes Moses who believed that the Lord could defeat the enemies of Canaan. God’s leaders will stick with the Lord’s decisions even in the face of your wrong. Leaders will not always get their way. We are called to lead not demand.

c. Moses made a decision that would cost him greatly – comp. Ex. 15 to Num. 20

• As we have spoken of earlier this would have been one of the costliest sin Moses did. But we must keep three things in mind here.

\* God did not punish Israel for Moses sin

\* Moses did get into Canaan until after his death – Mt. 17:1-4

\* Even in our wisest years we can make major mistakes

d. Moses was wise in His prayer life

• Throughout Moses’ ministry all we can find is that he would pray on the behalf of Israel. I’m sure he would pray for God to help him in leading Israel, but from all indication he prayed for his people. A Godly leader will put his people first before himself.