



Midweek Study Notes
9th January 2022
Prepared by Matt

Giants of Faith - Moses

On Sunday morning Mervyn spoke to us about Moses, another giant of faith who has been referred to as one of the most humble characters in the Bible.

Reread **Hebrews 11:23-29**, which manages to condense a massive chapter in history into just a few lines.



Verse 25 says that Moses ‘...chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.’ This foreshadowed the life of Jesus, who chose to be horrendously mistreated - and killed - for every single one of us. As the next chapter of Hebrews tells us, *‘for the joy set before him [Jesus] endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.’*



The humility and sacrifice that Moses - and Jesus - displayed goes against our selfish, sinful, human nature. Sin may provide us with temporary pleasure, but it always leaves us with a horrible aftertaste. *Holiness brings lasting pleasure, and Jesus - who was tempted in every way and did not sin - is the **only** one who can lead us into this holiness.*

Discussion Suggestions

Mervyn talked about Moses being ‘a reluctant leader, a bit stuttery and having a history of failure.’ Do you find this encouraging? How do the leaders that God appoints differ from many of the people we see in positions of power in politics or business?

One of the slides we saw on Sunday morning told us that **Fear says ‘what if?’ and faith says ‘even if.’** Which of these ways of thinking do you feel like you are sewing into your own life, and into the lives of those around you?

God always wants the best for us, even though His way is not always the easy way. Can you point to a time in your life when God led you down a difficult path that eventually brought positive results?

Mervyn reminded us that we worship a God who does new things and takes us on exciting adventures. At the start of a brand new year, what are your expectations about what God will do in your life, in the lives of those around you and in Croftlands Community Church?

When speaking about Moses, Mervyn also touched on the subject of our priorities, reminding us that like Moses - and as Paul wrote in **Ephesians 2:10** - we are called to action. What are your priorities for 2022? Do you sense God asking you to give up anything in order to serve Him better?

Suggestions For Prayer

On Sunday morning we meditated on the words *'Your mercy flows like a river on us'* from the worship song Everlasting Arms (Lean Hard). We are often encouraged to create resolutions and make 'a new start' at the beginning of the year, but when we know Jesus we get a new start every single day! Thank God for his amazing mercy towards us, and ask Him to help us to act in the same way towards others.

Repeat Bradley's prayer that God will 'open our eyes to see, open our hearts to receive and open our hands to serve.'

Echo Mervyn's prayer that each of us will have our own 'burning bush' moment and receive our own personal call to action.

Themes from the reading...

Parenting, Identity, Choices,
Pleasure of Sin, Priorities,
Perseverance, Vision, Action!