

3ABN SABBATH SCHOOL PANEL
003 - LESSON – Tuesday – April 14

Moses, Humble Servant

The grand halls of the Egyptian palace boasted of opulence, pleasure, and ease. “‘Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds’ ” (Acts 7:22, *NKJV*). A life of power, riches, and popularity were his for the taking, yet Moses chose something very different. “As historian, poet, philosopher, general of armies, and legislator, he stands without a peer. Yet with the world before him, he had the moral strength to refuse the flattering prospects of wealth and greatness and fame, ‘choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season.’”—Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 246.

What does Hebrews 11:24–26 tell us about why Moses chose a different path and humbled himself?

Hebrews 11:24-26 (NKJV) “By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, (25) choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, (26) esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.”

Here in Genesis 2:7, we can imagine God kneeling to form the first human being out of the ground with His own hands. “And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.” This is a God who gets close—so close that He breathes into Adam’s nostrils the breath of life. This name, Yahweh, presents a more intimate picture of God, but Moses uses both names in the first two chapters of the Bible to describe these two characteristics of God to us.

1. Moses Chose Identity Over Position

“By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter...” — Hebrews 11:24

Moses was legally, culturally, and socially positioned as Egyptian royalty. Yet Scripture says he **refused** that identity.

This tells us:

- His humility began with **rejecting a false identity**
- He chose to belong to God’s covenant people rather than Egypt’s power structure

Why it matters:

Moses humbled himself because faith reshaped how he defined **who he was**, not merely what he had.

2. Moses Valued Suffering With God Over Pleasure Without God

“Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin...”— Hebrews 11:25

The text does not deny that Egypt offered pleasure—it calls it **temporary**. Moses understood that:

- Comfort can be deceptive
- Pleasure can dull spiritual purpose
- Faith sometimes leads *away* from ease and *into* difficulty

Why it matters:

True humility is not self-hatred; it is **submission to God’s will**, even when it costs comfort.

3. Moses Measured Life by Eternal Value, Not Immediate Reward

“Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.”— Hebrews 11:26

This is the heart of the passage. Moses:

- Compared **reproach** with **riches**
- Compared **Christ** with **treasures**
- Compared **future reward** with **present gain**

Amazingly, Moses is said to value “*the reproach of Christ*” centuries before the incarnation—showing that his faith was **Messianic and forward-looking**.

Why it matters:

Moses humbled himself because he believed God’s **future promise outweighed Egypt’s present power**.

Theological Insight (Why Moses Chose the Lower Path)

Moses’ humility flowed from three convictions:

1. **God’s people were worth more than Pharaoh’s palace**
 1. **Psalm 84:10 — “Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere.”**
 2. **Exodus 2:11 — Moses “went out to his brethren and looked at their burdens.”**
2. **God’s approval was worth more than Egypt’s applause**

2 Corinthians 4:16–18 — Affliction is temporary; glory is eternal. - 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NKJV) “(16) Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. (17) For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, (18) while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the

things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

3. God’s future was worth more than Egypt’s fortune:

1. **Romans 8:18** — Present sufferings not worthy to be compared with future glory.

Romans 8:18 (NKJV) “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”

Philippians 3:7-8 (NKJV) “But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. (8) Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ”

1. Humility Submits to God’s Will

It yields authority instead of asserting control

True humility begins with **submission**—recognizing God’s wisdom above our own.

Scripture

- **Micah 6:8** — “What does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?”
- **James 4:6–7** — “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble... Submit to God.”
- **Proverbs 3:5–6** — Trusting the Lord rather than leaning on one’s own understanding.

Key truth:

Humility is not weakness—it is willing alignment with God’s authority.

2. Humility Puts Others Before Self

It chooses service over status

Biblical humility expresses itself in **selfless action**, not self-promotion.

Scripture

- **Philippians 2:3–4** — “In lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.”
- **Romans 12:10** — “In honor giving preference to one another.”
- **Mark 9:35** — “If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.”

Key truth:

Humility measures greatness by how well we serve, not how high we rise.

3. Humility Depends on God, Not Self

It knows its need and seeks grace

A humble person recognizes spiritual poverty and constant need for God’s grace.

Scripture

- **Psalm 51:17** — “A broken and a contrite heart—these, O God, You will not despise.”
- **Matthew 5:3** — “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”
- **2 Corinthians 12:9** — “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.”

Key truth:

Humility thrives where dependence on God replaces confidence in self.

One-Sentence Summary

Humility submits to God’s will, serves others above self, and lives in continual dependence on divine grace.

If you’d like, I can:

- Add **Jesus as the supreme model of humility (Philippians 2)**
- Turn this into a **short devotional or sermon appeal**
- Create **discussion questions for Sabbath School**
- Contrast **humility vs. false humility** with Scripture