

# JOCHEBED: The Fortified Faith Of A Godly Mother

## Exodus 2:1-10; Hebrews 11:23-26

### 1. By Faith, She Protects Her Child In A Society That Devalues Life (1-2)

<sup>1</sup> Now a man from the house of Levi went and took as his wife a Levite woman. <sup>2</sup> The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months.

**Hebrews 11:23** By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

### 2. By Faith, She Prepares To Release Her Child Leaving Results To God (3-4)

<sup>3</sup> When she could hide him no longer, she took for him a basket made of bulrushes and daubed it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child in it and placed it among the reeds by the river bank. <sup>4</sup> And his sister stood at a distance to know what would be done to him.

### 3. By Faith, She Entrusts Her Children To God's Sovereign Protection (5-9)

<sup>5</sup> Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her young women walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her servant woman, and she took it. <sup>6</sup> 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." <sup>7</sup> 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?" <sup>8</sup> And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the girl went and called the child's mother. <sup>9</sup> And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him.

### 4. By Faith, She Releases Her Child To God When It's Time To Let Go (10)

<sup>10</sup> When the child grew older, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "Because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

**Hebrews 11:24-26** By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.

#### Conclusion:

- Protect
- Prepare
- Release

#### Discussion:

- What are some of the wise methods your parents prepared you for adulthood?
- What are some of the ways we can prepare our children to navigate a society that's hostile to the Gospel?
- What advice would you give to parents of prodigal children (those who walked away from God)?
- What are some of the best ways for parents to prepare themselves to let their children go?

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## Introduction:

1. Many special things have been said about mothers and your special influence on us:
  - Spanish Proverb: "An ounce of mother is worth a pound of clergy."
  - One minister gave the perfect line: "My mother practices what I preach."
  - Jewish Proverb: "God could not be everywhere and therefore He made mothers."
2. What might have been said by famous mothers:
  - Mother of Alexander The Great: "How many times do I have tell you - you can't have everything you want in this world!"
  - Achille's mother: "Stop imagining things. There's nothing wrong with your heel."
  - Sigmund Freud's mother: "Stop pestering me! I've told you a hundred times the stork brought you."
3. In a country that is conforming to secular principles, being a woman of faith is a challenge.
  - Adolescent independence – how to let them go
  - College
  - Worldly distractions
    - Follow career instead of follow God
    - Measure your popularity instead of your faith in God

## 1. By Faith, She Protects Her Child In A Society That Devalues Life (1-2)

<sup>1</sup>Now a man from the house of Levi went and took as his wife a Levite woman. <sup>2</sup>The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months.

- Moses' mother's name is not mentioned here, but it is in Exodus 6:20 and Numbers 26:59.
- Moses's parents are named Amram and Jochebed.
- "Jochebed" means "glory of Jehovah" or "Jehovah is her glory"
  - What an appropriate name for this woman who was a jewel of glory to God!
- She married her nephew – not uncommon nor unlawful back in those early days
- Miriam may have been around 10 and Aaron may have been around 5 when Moses was born
  - Aaron would become a High Priest
  - Miriam would become a musician and poet
  - Moses was 80 years old in 1445 BC, the date of the Exodus (7:70)
  - So he was born in 1525 BC.

**Numbers 26:59** The name of Amram's wife was Jochebed the daughter of Levi, who was born to Levi in Egypt. And she bore to Amram Aaron and Moses and Miriam their sister.

**Exodus 6:20** Amram took as his wife Jochebed his father's sister, and she bore him Aaron and Moses, the years of the life of Amram being 137 years.

### **Background:**

- Egypt was not the same place in the beginning of Exodus as we left it at the end of Genesis
- In Genesis, 215 years before the story Exodus begins, Joseph found great favor with Pharaoh.
- 2nd highest in kingdom, though he was a Hebrew
- Pharaoh invited Joseph's family to come to Egypt and live in the best piece of land in Egypt - Goshen - a beautiful oasis in a land of mostly desert
- Jacob, his 11 sons, and approximately 70 more came to Egypt to be reunited with Joseph and they flourished in the land of Goshen in both **prosperity** and **posterity**.
- They grew from a clan of under a 100 people, to over 2,000,000 strong (as extrapolated from the census of Israel in Numbers 1)
- This really bothered Egypt, who went through a number of pharaohs in 400 years, including Ahmose I, Amenhotep I, and Thutmose I.
- John J. Davis (*Moses and the Gods Of Egypt: Studies in Exodus*, Baker) speculates the Pharaoh was probably Thutmose I and his daughter could have been Hatshepsut, but not really certain
- These recent pharaohs did not remember Joseph and the good he did for Egypt
- They could see was the threat of their prosperity and population

IE/ like Nazi Germany, they saw the Jewish population as a threat and sought to exterminate them

- In Ancient Egypt, there was a Pharaoh like Hitler, who wanted to dispose of the Hebrew population by killing baby boys at birth.

- Pharaoh commanded the midwives who tended to the birth from Hebrew mothers to terminate the life of the males. (1:16)
- But there were many midwives who feared God over the Pharaoh and did not kill the babies at birth (1:17)

**Exodus 1:15-22** <sup>15</sup>Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, <sup>16</sup>“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.” <sup>17</sup>But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live. <sup>18</sup>So the king of Egypt called the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this, and let the male children live?” <sup>19</sup>The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.” <sup>20</sup>So God dealt well with the midwives. And the people multiplied and grew very strong. <sup>21</sup>And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. <sup>22</sup>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.”

- One of these mothers, whose third child was spared by one of these faithful midwives, would do everything she could to protect her baby.
- Her name is Jochebed and that spared baby boy is Moses.

**Exodus 2:2** The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months.

- She hid and protected her son from a government that wanted to eliminate him
- From an Oscar Schindler to a Corey Ten Boom who took a risk to save lives during the Nazi Holocaust, valuing life over economy, convenience or politics demonstrated the compassion of God.

**Hebrews 11:23** By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king’s edict.

- Ie/ The Georgia shooting of Ahmaud Arbery highlights the devaluation of the life of another because of race.
- Ie/ **Racism** devalues life.
- Ie/ **Slavery** devalues life. And there are more slaves today than 200 years ago.
- Ie/ **Abortion** devalues life.
- Ie/ China’s one child only policy devalue life.
- Ie/ Those who would stand for Life over Choice value every life created in the image of God
- Ie/ There have been a couple of voices who saw Covid 19 as an opportunity to cull out the weaker population for economic advantage
- **Devaluing life is not only against the heart of God, but also the heart of every mother**

**Isaiah 49:15** Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.

- **Moms, protect your children.**
  - Our children are not be attacked now by an infanticidal edict, but my moral demise and a godless worldview.
  - Ie/ Mother bears protect their cubs. When you see a baby bear cub in the wilderness, don't get close. Mama is nearby.
  - I admire the Mama bears, in our church and community, who protect their children by guarding their: social media, friends
- **Protect them from a godless worldview that replaces:**
  - God's glory with self-glory
  - Living wisely through the fear of God with living successfully through the advancement of self
  - Moral virtue with do as your heart pleases

## **2. By Faith, She Prepares To Release Her Child Leaving Results To God (3-4)**

<sup>3</sup>When she could hide him no longer, she took for him a basket made of bulrushes and daubed it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child in it and placed it among the reeds by the river bank. <sup>4</sup>And his sister stood at a distance to know what would be done to him.

- Part of the faith of a protective mom (and dad) is also to prepare them to go
- Jochabed prepared to let Moses go
- Sure, it was a waterproof basket with a paper cup of Cheerios, and she had her oldest child, Miriam, keep an eye on the basket
- But she made the preparation to let Moses go
  
- We can't always protect them from influences in life like when they were 5 and 10 years old
- We have to prepare them for adulthood
  
- Some parents prefer isolation as a parental method – but they grow up and not learning discernment and responsibility for making choices can ill-prepare kids to leave the nest
- **Insulation** is better than **isolation**. Decreasing the protective insulating layers over time can prepare them.
- Ie/ **Helicopter parents** hover over their children meddling in every decision they make
- Ie/ **Lawnmower parents** smooth out the path from any inconvenience and obstacles their kids will walk down
- Sometimes we need to let the kids make mistakes and learn. We stand nearby so they don't crash or sink. We have Miriam keep an "eye spy" sometimes. But we will have to prepare them for being away from us.
  
- Ie/ I remember one of my daughters had a real tough coach that other kids were afraid of. I told her that one day you'll have a tough boss.
  
- Biblically, God would give more responsibilities to those who were incrementally faithful

**Luke 16:10** One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much.

- Ie/ Adoption
  - Daisy has been watching this TV show that reunites kids separated through adoption with their parents or siblings.
  - These moms who weren't prepared to raise a child but gave them up for adoption were thanked, with tears.
- Ie/ College
  - Parents are letting their kids go away for college – tough on moms
  - Mom's can tend to attach their identity to their children more than men tend to (work)
  - We should all primarily find our identity in God, not our work or kids – but our kids are so great, it's hard not to

### **3. By Faith, She Entrusts Her Children To God's Sovereign Protection (5-9)**

<sup>5</sup>Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her young women walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her servant woman, and she took it. <sup>6</sup>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." <sup>7</sup>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?" <sup>8</sup>And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the girl went and called the child's mother. <sup>9</sup>And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him.

- **To take the place of God as the protector of our children demonstrates a lack of faith in God's sovereignty and omnipotence.**
- God sent the daughter of Pharaoh to rescue Moses
- How ironic that God would use the daughter of the power-hungry, life- demeaning, infanticidal Pharaoh to raise the eventual deliverer of Israel!!
- How ironic that God would use Jochabed as the nurse for her own son, Moses
- God gave Moses the opportunity to be nursed by his own biological mother
- God will protect your child!
- I remember the tears the first day of Kindergarten – it will be OK
- I remember the tears of dropping of our kids to college – God will take care of them
- We have to give them over to God

**Philippians 1:6** And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

- Sometimes they will wobble

Ie/ Franklin Graham, the son of famous evangelist Billy Graham, went through a rebellious stage until he was 48 years old

- His sons behavior had a personal, emotional and perceptual toll on Billy & Ruth's life and ministry
- On a trip to Switzerland in 1974, Billy talked to his son about his direction.
- Billy to Franklin: "I want you to know that your mother and I sense there is a struggle for the soul of your life, and you're going to have to make a choice."
- These words stirred in Franklin's heart and on that trip in Jerusalem, instead of going to a bar, he was reading the Gospel of John and he trusted Christ – late in life, even though his dad was Billy Graham. (reference Franklin Graham's book The Prodigal Come Home)
- Sometimes, we can't control our kids spiritual choices.
- All we can do is direct them to God and give them examples from our own lives.

#### **4. By Faith, She Releases Her Child To God When It's Time To Let Go (10)**

<sup>10</sup>When the child grew older, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "Because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

- Prepare your child for that time
- It was 18 for Jochabed
- It was probably between 2-3 years old, the age a baby was typically weaned
- Let Them Go!
- Hebrews 11:23 honored the faith of Amram and Jochebed, but the next set of verses talks about the outcome

**Hebrews 11:24-26** By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.

- One commentary suggests (Davis, p. 54) that Pharaoh's daughter gave Moses a longer name – Moses may be a shortened name of perhaps Hapmose or Irumose – "one born out of the Nile"
- For Moses to be refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter is for him to forsake being referred to as a god (pharaohs were considered god)
- Moses chose to be mistreated with the rest of Israel than to enjoy the "fleeting pleasures of sin"

#### **Conclusion:**

##### 1. Protect

- The greatest protection is the Gospel of Christ
- God forgives our sin, removes judgment from sin and guarantees our eternity in heaven through the death of Christ on the cross

## 2. Prepare

- We have to be a model of dedication and service to Christ to our children
- If you don't care about God or church, why should they?
- Prepare them to follow Christ when they leave the house.
- Where will they go to church in college?
- What fellowship options do they have in college?
- Help them know the joy of ministry. Send them on a short term mission trip.
- Why is it important to marry a godly spouse?

## 3. Release

- Let them go and PRAY!
- We're the training wheels, but real freedom in Christ is when we rely on Him alone without the guard rails

### **Discussion:**

- What are some of the wise methods your parents prepared you for adulthood?
- What are some of the ways we can prepare our children to navigate a society that's hostile to the Gospel?
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