

"The Walk of Faith"

Part 17

11:1-40

Introduction: In our study of Old Testament people who lived by faith within Hebrews 11 we have now come to the parents of Moses.

I. The Examples of Faith

Part 14

A. The Faith of Amram and Jochebed

Notice Hebrews 11:23

We are told here that it was the faith of Moses' parents which led them to hide him 3 months because he was a "beautiful" child. We are also told they did not fear the king's commandment. To see the faith of Moses' parents we need to go back to the book of Exodus.

Notice Exodus 1:6-14

Here is where the trouble all began. There was a Pharaoh who came into power that KNEW NOT JOSEPH. This man was ignorant of Egypt's history and when people forget their history trouble is sure to follow. This Pharaoh felt threatened by the people of Israel and therefore he chose to afflict them so as to hinder their procreation. But the more they oppressed the Israelites the more they increased.

Proverbs 19:21

²¹ There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand.

Before we move on here let me point out something which may be an encouragement to you and me. This oppression was permitted by God because it was time for Israel to go back to the land of Canaan. This oppression had been foretold by God when he spoke to Abram.

Genesis 15:13-14

¹³ And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years;

¹⁴ And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance.

So the affliction was known and permitted by God. But there is something else here that we need to see, this was an attack by Satan on the Nation of Israel in an attempt to stop the promise of the future Redeemer.

Notice Exodus 1:15-16

Here was the command given by Pharaoh that all the baby boys were to be killed. This was Satan working through Pharaoh to stop the Promise.

Genesis 3:14-15

¹⁴ And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

¹⁵ And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Here is the very first promise of the Redeemer and Satan learned from this promise that the Redeemer would be a Man. Therefore we find the oppression and the command to kill the males by Pharaoh and we can clearly see that Satan was behind all of this. Now there is a verse that we need to bring into this situation.

Romans 8:28

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

The Truth of this verse can be seen in the lives of the people of Israel here in Exodus 1. The bondage and the oppression made them hate their lives in Egypt. This was permitted by God to help prepare their hearts to leave Egypt. God never intended for Israel to remain in Egypt. He had promised to them the land of Canaan. Now in order for Israel to long for Canaan God permitted the affliction.

Application:

God often permits suffering to come into the lives of His children so that we will long for our eternal home. If it were not for the valleys and the trials of life we would be

comfortable here and that is not what God desires. He desires for us to focus upon eternity and long to be with Him.

2 Timothy 4:6-8

⁶ *For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.*

⁷ *I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:*

⁸ *Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*

Those who love His appearing are those who look forward to life in eternity and are not rooted in here in this world.

Now let us get back to Exodus. Pharaoh had given a command to kill all the males and this was to be done by casting them in the river.

Notice Exodus 1:22

Now under these circumstances human reasoning would say that this would not be a good time to have children. But human reasoning does not understand faith.

Notice Exodus 2:1-2

Here we are introduced to a young couple and they enter into marriage and she then becomes pregnant. The average person would ask, "What are they thinking?" The writer of Hebrew tells us what they were thinking.

Hebrews 11:23

²³ *By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.*

This young couple did not fear Pharaoh but they did fear God. Their faith kept them from fearing man.

Pink records these words:

"Nothing will so quiet the mind and still its fears as a real trusting in the Lord of hosts."

So Moses was born and his parents did not follow the command of Pharaoh but instead they hid him for 3 months because they saw that he was a proper child which means he was a beautiful baby. Some believe that God had revealed to his parents that Moses would play an important role in Israel. But we do not have any verses that would support this. But there was surely something about Moses which caused his parents to risk their own lives so as to keep him alive. The actions of Moses' parents echo the words of Peter.

Acts 5:29

²⁹ Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

Moses' parents looked away from human fears and they rested in an unseen God. There are many verses that picture the faith of Moses' parents as well as all others who walk by faith.

Psalm 27:1

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalm 46:1-3

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

² *Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;*

³ *Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof.*

Psalm 56:1-4

Be merciful unto me, O God: for man would swallow me up; he fighting daily oppresseth me.

² *Mine enemies would daily swallow me up: for they be many that fight against me, O thou most High.*

³ *What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.*

⁴ *In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.*

The point we need to grasp here is that FAITH pushes fear out of our lives. The parents of Moses refused to be intimidated by the command and the authority of Pharaoh but instead they hid their son for 3 months believing that God would honor their actions.

There is more to this story which we need to see. Moses was hid for 3 months by his parents and some believe this was because every 3 months there was a search that was conducted for male children and others say that Moses must have developed colic and it was not possible to keep him quiet. Whatever the reason there was another plan implemented at the end of the 3 months.

Notice Exodus 2:3-10

This was a plan which Moses parents had formulated in order to preserve the life of Moses. God honored the plan and we know that Moses was used in a mighty way by God. There is something from these actions of Moses' parents which we need to grasp for our own lives. Notice the thoughts of Pink on True LIVING FAITH:

True FAITH overcomes fear and will press on no matter the situation. But True FAITH is not reckless or presumptuous. True FAITH will use lawful means in order to overcome danger.

The point is that we are to live by faith and at the same time we are to plan ahead and do all we can. I remember reading years ago a statement which a Bible teacher made. He said, "God will not do for His people what they can do for themselves." In other words we must live by faith but we also must mix action with our faith.

Let me show you a situation in the life of the Apostle Paul which will help us to see the need of faith and lawful means blended together. Let us step into the scene in which Paul is on a ship on his way to Rome to stand before Caesar. The ship is in the midst of a severe storm.

Acts 27:21-31

²¹ But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss.

²² And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship.

²³ For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve,

²⁴ Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.

²⁵ Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.

²⁶ Howbeit we must be cast upon a certain island.

²⁷ But when the fourteenth night was come, as we were driven up and down in Adria, about midnight the shipmen deemed that they drew near to some country;

²⁸ And sounded, and found it twenty fathoms: and when they had gone a little further, they sounded again, and found it fifteen fathoms.

²⁹ Then fearing lest we should have fallen upon rocks, they cast four anchors out of the stern, and wished for the day.

³⁰ And as the shipmen were about to flee out of the ship, when they had let down the boat into the sea, under colour as though they would have cast anchors out of the foreship,

³¹ Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved.

God had revealed that all the men on the ship would all be saved BUT they would need to remain on the ship. They could not just dive over the side and throw themselves into the water. They had to use lawful means in order to survive. To become careless or reckless would be tempting God.

Conclusion:

Let me get you back to Moses' parents. Their faith in God allowed them to rise above the fear of man. It was their faith which kept them from being intimidated by the power and the authority of Pharaoh. It was their faith which allowed them to risk their own lives and to carry out a well prepared plan that God would honor. It was their faith which preserved the life of Moses who became one of the greatest leaders of Israel. What a lesson for the Hebrew believers this would be. They were living in fear and they were being intimidated for their faith in Christ. If they would trust God and if they would use lawful means available to them God would truly honor their faith. By faith they could rise above the fear

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and the intimidation. The potential to make a difference in their day was far above what they could ever imagine.

This very same Truth can be applied to our lives also.