

"The First 40 Years of Moses' Life"

Part 2

Exodus 2

Introduction: Last week in our study of the life of Moses we stepped into chapter 2 of Exodus and we looked at several points.

1. The Timing of Moses Birth.

Moses' birth is set against the dark background of chapter 1 where we looked at the affliction which Israel was facing.

2. The Tribe of Moses' Birth.

Moses came from the tribe of Levi. We noted two points about the tribe.

- a. Levi was an average tribe. - We learned that God uses average people.
- b. Levi was a tribe with a bad reputation. - Levi and Simeon terribly embarrassed their father in Shechem when they killed all the men of the city and they spoiled the city.

In Genesis 49 we looked at what Jacob said about Levi and Simeon as he was dying.

Genesis 49:5-7

⁵ *Simeon and Levi are brethren; instruments of cruelty are in their habitations.*

⁶ *O my soul, come not thou into their secret; unto their assembly, mine honour, be not thou united: for in their anger they slew a man, and in their selfwill they digged down a wall.*

⁷ *Cursed be their anger, for it was fierce; and their wrath, for it was cruel: I will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel.*

This was the tribe from which Moses would be born. From this we learned that even though we may come from a family that has been branded by sin we do not need to follow along the same line. Through the power of God and our willingness to make a change we can declare, "Starting with me the pattern will be broken!"

3. The Thinking of Moses' Parents.

Notice Exodus 2:1-2

In the midst of the darkness and under the king's command to kill all the baby boys Moses' mother conceived. Many would question how they could even allow this to happen under such conditions. But they were not intimidated by the king's command.

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.

The parents of Moses were governed by faith and not fear. They knew it was God's will for them to raise a family and so it was their responsibility in this situation to obey God rather than men.

a. **The strength of their faith.**

When we stopped last week, we were looking at the strength of their faith in the light of the conditions around them.

Ezekiel 20:6-8

⁶ In the day that I lifted up mine hand unto them, to bring them forth of the land of Egypt into a land that I had espied for them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands:

⁷ Then said I unto them, Cast ye away every man the abominations of his eyes, and defile not yourselves with the idols of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

⁸ **But they rebelled against me, and would not hearken unto me: they did not every man cast away the abominations of their eyes, neither did they forsake the idols of Egypt:** then I said, I will pour out my fury upon them, to accomplish my anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt.

The flow of society was away from God, but the parents of Moses were not afraid to go against the flow and that is exactly what they did. While many adopted the false worship of the Egyptians this family stayed true to God. It would be the faith of Amram and Jochebed that would change the history of the nation of Israel.

b. **The wisdom of their faith.**

Someone has said that wisdom keeps company with true faith. That is certainly the case in the text before us. Moses' parents had great faith and they also exercised great wisdom for they had brought together a plan that would preserve the life of their son. Let me just point out to you before we look at their plan that both parents were involved but we only read of his mother in our text.

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.

Amram would have been working the long hot days so he is not mentioned in what takes place in Exodus 2.

I. The Plan

Notice Exodus 2:2-3

Moses' parents hid him for three months, but it became impossible after this to hide him. Possibly he had colic and they could not keep him quiet. Whatever it was they needed to devise a plan to preserve his life.

His mother used the bulrushes and wove a basket and then covered the basket with a waterproof pitch and they set the basket in the shallows of the Nile River.

Notice Exodus 2:4

His sister then stood back at a far distance to watch their plan unfold.

Notice Exodus 2:5-6

While the baby was in the ark the daughter of Pharaoh came to the river to wash herself and as her and her maids walked along the river, they spotted the ark. This, by the way, was all planned out. Moses' family knew when Pharaoh's daughter came to the river and they knew the place she would come to. When she saw the baby, she had compassion on him knowing that he was one of the children of the Hebrews.

This was God moving the heart of this young lady. I want to point out to you what God used to move her heart with compassion. It was a tear in the eye of Moses. The verse tells us "the babe wept, and she had compassion on him".

Application:

There is here a wonderful lesson for our lives. The lesson would be this: "God can use the little we have when the situation is surrendered over to Him in faith". We often become discouraged when we are faced with situations in which we have little to offer. But the Bible is very clear that when we take what we have, and we place it in the hands of God He can do great things no matter how small the offering may be.

John 6:3-11

³ And Jesus went up into a mountain, and there he sat with his disciples.

⁴ And the passover, a feast of the Jews, was nigh.

⁵ When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?

⁶ And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do.

⁷ Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little.

⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him,

⁹ There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?

¹⁰ And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.

¹¹ And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.

¹² When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.

¹³ Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten.

The young lad had 5 loaves of bread and 2 small fish which humanly speaking would not feed 50 people and they were facing over 5000 people. But when the little that the lad had was placed in the hands of Jesus there was a miracle which took place. All the people ate, and everyone was filled and there were 12 baskets left over.

Let us know that there may be times when we have little to contribute to the situation but when we willingly give what we have the amount does not matter. It is all about the attitude of the heart.

2 Corinthians 9:7

⁷ Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

It is not the amount which we give that makes the difference it is the attitude of the heart which God looks at. There may sometime be an opportunity to give to a needy situation and you may only have a little to give. In those times let us remember that a little in the hands of God can be used in ways which we had never imagined.

Notice Exodus 2:7-9

God honored the faith of Moses' parents and placed Moses back in the arms of his own mother and she was then paid to raise her own son.

The rewards of faith are great as we see in the book of Hebrews.

Hebrews 11:30-35a

³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days.

³¹ By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.

³² And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:

³³ Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions.

³⁴ Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

³⁵ Women received their dead raised to life again:

These are but some of the rewards of faith, but we will see greater rewards in eternity for walking by faith. Now let us also understand that walking by faith as Moses' parents did does not mean life will be easy.

Hebrews 11:35-39

³⁵ Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

³⁶ And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:

³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented:

³⁸ (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

³⁹ And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:

We are called to live by faith, and we must understand that we may see some rewards, or we may see persecution for our faith. There is no promise of an easy life of faith.

2 Timothy 3:12

¹² Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

II. The Adoption

Notice Exodus 2:10

Apparently, Moses was permitted to stay with his parents until he was weaned. He was then taken into Pharaoh's house where he was trained in the way of the Egyptians.

Acts 7:20-22

²⁰ In which time Moses was born, and was exceeding fair, and nourished up in his father's house three months:

²¹ And when he was cast out, Pharaoh's daughter took him up, and nourished him for her own son.

²² And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds.

There are two sides to the adoption:

1. Human purpose.

It is believed that Pharaoh's daughter had no children and being royalty, she longed for a son whom she could train and set him up to one day sit on the throne as king. She trained him in the ways of the Egyptians and Moses excelled in his learning.

There is something here that we need to see from these first 40 years of Moses' life. Moses may have been in a place he did not desire to be but while he was there, he was a great steward of his opportunities. For 40 years he would apply himself to the opportunities before him and he would become mighty in words and in deeds. If he was not the next in line to be king, he was not far behind. What Moses would learn in the palace would later help him in dealing with the Egyptians.

Application:

Sometimes we too find ourselves in places where we certainly do not desire to be. When this happens, we need to keep two things in mind.

a. We are ambassadors for Jesus Christ.

So, wherever we are we need to do the very best we can in order to bring honor and glory to Him.

Colossians 3:22-25

²² Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God;

²³ And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

²⁴ Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

²⁵ But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.

I will give you the second thing we must keep in mind after we look at this next purpose.

2. Divine Purpose

God allowed Moses to be taken into the royal family so that he could learn the ways of the Egyptians for he would need this understanding when he stood before Pharaoh. This would be 40 years of training for Moses. Not all he would learn would be valuable, but much would be.

Another reason Moses was placed in the palace was to test him. He would need to choose between the world and following God.

Now let me give you the second point we need to remember:

- b. Wherever we are placed we are to learn for it may be a place where we are being trained for something which God has in the future for us to do.**

Conclusion:

Let me leave you with a three lessons from this study:

1. Let us learn to walk by faith and to also plan and do our part.
2. Let us be sure to glorify God wherever we are placed.
3. Let us accept where we are placed and have a teachable spirit being always ready to learn.