

"Lessons from Jochebed"

Introduction: Today we celebrate one of the popular days of the year. It is sad that mothers only get one day of the year to be pampered. When our girls were younger, I must admit that as their father I was not aware of what a mother went through. It was not that I did not care or pay attention to what all my wife did, but it was because I spent much of my time working to provide for our family.

Now however I watch our daughter with her three children, and I understand much more why there should be more than one day set aside for moms to be pampered.

Illustration: My facetime phone call the other day.

Today I want to take you back to the birth of Moses and look at his mother's character and see what we can learn from the life of Jochebed as we read of the events that surround the birth of Moses.

I. Jochebed was a woman of great faith.

Before we look at the details of her faith, I want to remind all mothers here of something. The greatest thing you can give to your family is the example of walking by faith. Teach them to trust in the Lord regardless of what the world says. Teach them that they do not need to live in fear because God is greater than anything they will ever face in this life.

1 John 4:4

⁴ *Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.*

Your children need to see you living out the Words of Romans 8.

Romans 8:35-39

³⁵ *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

³⁶ *As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.*

³⁷ *Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*

³⁸ *For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,*

³⁹ *Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Now let us get back to Jochebed.

1. The Death Sentence.

Notice Exodus 2:1-2a

Here we have the marriage of Amram and Jochebed and then the Bible tells of the conception. This seems normal until we consider the background and the order given by Pharaoh.

Notice Exodus 1:8-22

Here we see the order that was given by Pharaoh and that order was to kill every baby boy that was born. They were to be cast into the Nile River. This was all Satanic. Satan knew that the Messiah would be a man and he was determined to stop the plan of God by placing all the baby boys under a death sentence.

Now many would say that it would be foolish for a couple to get pregnant under this order. Many in this situation would be controlled by fear and worry. Some may say that it was a mistake that she became pregnant with Moses. But I do not believe it was a mistake. She had already given birth to Aaron and Miriam, so she knew how it all worked. It was no mistake. It was faith on her part and her husband's part. Jochebed was walking by faith. She knew that her God was greater than Pharaoh and she made the choice to trust in her God. She made the choice to walk in obedience to God.

Genesis 9:1

And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.

Amram and Jochebed knew that it was the Lord's will to procreate, and it did not matter what order Pharaoh issued they were going to be obedient to the Lord.

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.*

Application:

This is the kind of faith that children need to see in their mothers. They need moms that are not intimidated by the world and who are not afraid to go against the flow of society.

Hebrews 11:1-6

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

² *For by it the elders obtained a good report.*

³ *Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.*

⁴ *By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.*

⁵ *By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.*

⁶ **But without faith it is impossible to please him:** for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Mom you are called to glorify God and the greatest way that you can glorify God is walking by faith. Faith in God will produce obedience in your life.

Matthew 5:13-16

¹³ *Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.*

¹⁴ *Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.*

¹⁵ *Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.*

¹⁶ *Let your light so shine before men, **that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.***

2. The Test

Notice Exodus 2:2-3a

For some unknown reason Jochebed could not hide Moses any longer. Many believe he had colic and he cried much of the time. The point I want you to consider is that God could

have kept Moses quiet, or He could have miraculously allowed him to be concealed until he grew up. But God did neither. He allowed this to happen so that Jochebed and Amram's faith would be tested.

Application:

Let us understand that even when we walk in the will of God and we walk by faith there are going to be times of testing. You will face situations that will try your faith greatly.

Notice what Peter wrote to the suffering saints.

1 Peter 1:5-7

⁵ *Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

⁶ *Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:*

⁷ *That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:*

Listen to the words of Spurgeon:

"Indeed, it is the honor of faith to be tried. Shall any man say, 'I have faith, but I have never had to believe under difficulties'? Who knows whether thou hast any faith? Shall a man say, 'I have great faith in God, but I have never had to use it in anything more than the ordinary affairs of life, where I could probably have done without it as well as with it'? Is this to the honor and praise of thy faith? Dost thou think that such a faith as this will bring any great glory to God, or bring to thee any great reward? If so, thou art mightily mistaken."

Throughout the Bible we see people walking in the will of God and their faith is tested in some very high-pressure situations.

Daniel 3:14-21

¹⁴ *Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?*

¹⁵ *Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the*

midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.

¹⁷ If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.

¹⁸ But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

¹⁹ Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated.

²⁰ And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

²¹ Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

3. The Plan and the Hand of God

Notice Exodus 2:3-9

God honored the faith of Jochebed by melting the heart of Pharaoh's daughter. I want you to notice that God used something very small, it was a tear in the eye of Moses. Not only did God melt her heart, but He also allowed Moses to be given back to his mother and she was permitted to keep him until he was weaned.

Here is what I want you to grasp. God would preserve the life of Moses but Jochebed had to do her part. She did not just sit back and let God work but she did all she could in the situation.

Let me show you a passage from Joshua when Joshua had to help the Gibeonites who were under attack.

Joshua 10:

⁶ And the men of Gibeon sent unto Joshua to the camp to Gilgal, saying, Slack not thy hand from thy servants; come up to us quickly, and save us, and help us: for all the kings of the Amorites that dwell in the mountains are gathered together against us.

⁷ So Joshua ascended from Gilgal, he, and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valour.

⁸ And the LORD said unto Joshua, Fear them not: for I have delivered them into thine hand; there shall not a man of them stand before thee.

⁹ Joshua therefore came unto them suddenly, and went up from Gilgal all night.

¹⁰ And the LORD discomfited them before Israel, and slew them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, and chased them along the way that goeth up to Bethhoron, and smote them to Azekah, and unto Makkedah.

¹¹ And it came to pass, as they fled from before Israel, and were in the going down to Bethhoron, that the LORD cast down great stones from heaven upon them unto Azekah, and they died: they were more which died with hailstones than they whom the children of Israel slew with the sword.

¹² Then spake Joshua to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon.

¹³ And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day.

¹⁴ And there was no day like that before it or after it, that the LORD hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the LORD fought for Israel.

Joshua was assured of victory, but he still marched all night to get to the battle.

Application:

I would encourage the moms that are here and are raising young children to be prepared to do all you can to raise your children in the admonition of the Lord. Just as with Moses so it is with your children that Satan would murder them if he could. They are under attack and so you must be willing to do all you can and make any sacrifice that is needed.

4. The Results

Notice Exodus 2:10

Moses was then given to Pharaoh's daughter to raise.

Hebrews 11:24-26

²⁴ By faith Moses, when he was come to years, 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 pleasures of sin for a season;

²⁶ Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

Conclusion:

How did Moses know about God and God's people? The years that his momma had him she taught him all she could about the Lord and His promises.

Application:

Deuteronomy 6:6-9

⁶ And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

⁷ And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

⁸ And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.

⁹ And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.