

Mother's Day 2021

5/9/21

Motherly Influence

Exodus 2:1-10

I. **Introduction:**

A. Influence

1. Things influence children positively & other things will influence them negatively.
2. Negative Influence:
 - a. Movies, TV shows, and video games
 - i. They aren't bad themselves, but the content can be very negative & damaging.
 - ii. These influences often desensitize the horror of violence & sinful conduct.
 - b. – Poor role models
 - i. If youths run with wrong people or wrong crowd they'll be negatively influenced.
3. Positive Influence
 - a. Other Christian friends
 - i. Solomon said, "**iron sharpens iron**" (Prov. 27:17).
 - ii. Children need surrounded with friends who will encourage them to live for Jesus.
 - iii. Thus is the value of church attendance with an active children and youth ministry.
 - b. Biblical instruction
 - i. The value of biblical instruction in a child's life cannot be overstated.
 - ii. That's why we begin teaching children in preschool & continue through adulthood
 - iii. In Awana program, children memorize the Bible & hide God's word in their heart
 - c. Parental role models
 - i. There is no more powerful influence in the life of a child than his or her parents.
 - ii. A Godly mother and father are the greatest of influences in a child's life.

B. Motherly Influence

1. Everyone who comes into this world has a mother.
2. God designed her to be most important influence in each life that comes in the world.

II. **A woman named Jochebed (Exodus 2:1-4)**

A. A familiar Bible story

1. Jacob & the 70: About 100 years before the events of this passage, Jacob & 70 Hebrew men & the wives moved to Goshen in Egypt, under Joseph's hand, Egypt's prime minister
2. Blessed of God: God promised Abraham He would bless Israel & multiply them greatly
3. By the time of this passage the children of Israel numbered in the millions.
4. Another Pharaoh: In this story, another Pharaoh came who didn't appreciate all Joseph had done for Egypt nor did he like the Jews & was afraid of how many were in the land.
5. This Pharaoh was either *Thutmose I* or *Amenhotep I* during the 18th dynasty of Egypt.

B. Population control

- *Because there were so many Jews in Egypt, Pharaoh devised a population control plan.*
 1. – Slavery
 - a. He enslaved the Jews & forced them to hard labor daily expecting to slow population growth, but God blessed them all the more & they continued to grow in numbers.
 2. – Infanticide
 - a. Pharaoh commanded all the Hebrew midwives to save the girl babies and throw the boy babies in the Nile River to drown. But midwives feared God more than the king.

b. After the midwives' failure, Pharaoh commanded his own people to search out and kill the baby boys. (**Exodus 1:17**)

c. Note: The ultimate source of such wickedness is Satan who has always sought to destroy Israel because they are God's chosen people.

C. The birth of Moses

1. Moses' parents were *Amram* and *Jochebed* who had a daughter *Miriam* & son *Aaron*.

2. Jochebed was pregnant and the time drew near for her delivery. (**Exodus 2:2**)

3. A Beautiful Child: Jochebed knew God was going to use this boy in a special way.

D. Impossible to hide

1. For three months it was fairly easy to hide the baby, but soon someone would notice the baby boy and the authorities would kill him.

2. Plan: Jochebed came up with a plan to save this boy. (**Exodus 2:3-4**)

3. Plan was to place the baby where he might be found by an Egyptian who'd spare him.

4. Jochebed placed Moses in a basket sealed so it'd float. Then put it in the reeds so he'd not be swept away in the river's current. She put him where Pharaoh's daughter bathed.

5. Miriam: Moses' older sister was posted at a distance to watch what would happen.

III. God's preservation (Exodus 2:5-6)

A. The baby wept.

1. Never before was there such an opportune time for a baby to weep.

2. God moved this woman's heart and she had compassion on him.

3. She recognized the baby as Hebrew immediately and knew her father ordered to kill all male Hebrews. Yet she was moved by God to spare this baby, who'd deliver Israel.

IV. The goodness of God (Exodus 2:7-10)

A. Moses adopted

1. Pharaoh's daughter decided to adopt the Hebrew baby & going forward he'd be her son

2. Moses would be raised as a prince of Egypt! Only God could bring about such a thing.

B. Miriam's quick response

1. Seeing what was happening, Miriam immediately came forward asking if they needed a nurse. Pharaoh's daughter responded affirmatively & commanded her to find one who could nurse the child. Of course, Miriam brought her mother, Jochebed.

2. Jochebed was commanded to nurse the child and care for him until he was weaned.

3. Thus Jochebed was paid by Pharaoh's daughter to take care of her own child!

C. A mother's influence

- *There are three things Jochebed did as an influence on Moses.*

1. – She laid the foundation.

a. In those early formative years of Moses' life, his mother laid the foundation in his heart to know God. She spoke of Jehovah & His promises to Abraham.

b. She told Moses how Israel came to live in Goshen & God would deliver them 1 day.

c. Application: Moms are uniquely gifted by God to influence children early for Jesus.

2. – She built on the foundation.

a. When he came of age, he knew Jochebed was his mother & how God spared his life.

b. God began working in his heart drawing him to the work God had determined for him

c. Prayer: Part of building on that foundation was prayer. She prayed for Moses daily.

d. She was aware of the dangers of power, position, and wealth.

e. Application: Build on the foundation you laid in the heart of your children.

- f. Continue to instruct them and to teach them pointing them to Jesus, but the most powerful thing you can do is pray. Give your children back to God.
- 3. – She modeled what she taught him.
 - a. Jochebed lived a life of faith others could see, particularly her children.
 - b. Moses became the mighty man of God to deliver Israel.
 - c. Aaron became the first High Priest of Israel.
 - d. Miriam was a prophetic and worship song writer.
 - e. Jochebed's faith & demonstration of that faith paid big in her children's lives.
- D. Moses' choice (Hebrews 11:24-29)**
 - 1. Day came when Moses had to choose whom he would he serve, God or himself?
 - 2. The key to Moses' choice was faith, which he first learned on the knees of his mother.