

2008 MOTHERS DAYS – JOCHEBED- A FAITHFUL MOTHER

Ephesians 3:14-20

Today is mother's day.
 When we honor Women all over the world,
 Those who are mothers of children and
 Those mothers who care for the children of others.

We remember with special care those who have loved us unconditionally.
 Have taken care of us
 Feed us and comforted us.
 And read stories to us.

Jochebed was a mother like that
 And she loved to tell her Children Stories.
 And 3 year old Aaron and 7 year old Miriam
 loved to hear the stories their mother told of
 a little Hebrew boy named Joseph who lived in Canaan
 With his father and 11 brothers.
 And how the brother were jealous of him and of the coat of many colors
 which his father had specially made for him.
 So when Joseph delivered food to his brother in the field.
 They stripped him of the coat and threw him into a pit,
 And then sold him to the Midianites going to Egypt.

In Egypt Joseph was bought by an Egyptian officer named: Potiphar
 Later Joseph became governor of Egypt.
 He saved Egypt and Canaan from famine.
 When his brothers came to buy food he forgave them their deed.
 And all his family moved to Canaan.
 They lived there for many years.

Then a new Pharaoh came who enslaved the Hebrew people.
 This Pharaoh was afraid there were too many Hebrews.
 So he enslaved them.
 But God said he would send someone to set them free.

Then little Miriam would ask: "Is it true mother, that the Pharaoh has
 Ordered all newborn Hebrew baby boys to be killed?"
 Getting up quickly so as not to allow the children to see the fear on her face,
 The very pregnant Jochebed answered "yes."
 But Miriam persisted:
 "Is that why we have heard woman screaming in the night."
 Jochebed said: "Perhaps."
 Miriam said: "Wait mother, what if our new baby is a boy? What will we do?"
 Jochebed returned to the children
 Sat down by their bed and said:
 We will do what we have always done in a crisis,
We will be calm, think clearly, and trust God to guide us.

Even as she kissed her children good night,

Jochebed's labor pains had begun.
30 centuries later we know that Jochebed wife of Amram,
gave birth to a baby boy and his name was Moses.

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

The question we want to ask today is
What can we learn from this faithful mother- Jochebed?

WE MUST NOT ALLOW OUR EMOTIONS TO RULE US

I. STAY CALM

Jochebed stayed calm

Emotions are a wonderful part of our human makeup.
They express our feelings;
Fear, love, anger, compassion, hatred, hope, kindness, joy,
Without them we would be ruled only by logic and facts.

Yet emotions can be destructive when allowed to get out of control.
Who knows that better than a woman,
When She gets all riled up in bitterness, anger, jealousy, envy?
I just heard the radio report this week that the most stressed out people today
Are young mothers with children.
(any of you want to agree with that?)

A psychologist was interviewing children
And asked if they expected their mothers to get angry from time to time.
8 year old Ted said: "She has to, or she'll faint from holding it in."

But an experienced 9 year old Randy said: "But it's best to remember, that when your mother starts to act real weird, you have to look scared and serious. Don't giggle. When mommies are mad, they get madder if you giggle."

Megan said: "My mommy got so mad, that she yanked the plate off the table and all the mashed potatoes flew into the air."

The psychologist asked "why would a mother do a thing like that?"
"Well," said Megan, "she told my older brother, Mike, who's 11 years old, to eat the potatoes on his plate and he said '**Later.**'
And then she told him again to eat the potatoes and Mike said '**Soon.**'
And then she told him he had better eat those potatoes right now and he said, '**In a minute.**'
And then she stood up and Mike finally took a bite and told her, "**How can I eat them when they are cold!**"
And that's when the potatoes flew."

It's not easy being a Mom.
Jochebed was well aware of the destructive nature of uncontrolled emotions.
Her very name means "**Jehovah is our glory**"
Even when she was 9 months pregnant.
God enabled her to control her emotions
A job not easily done.

This remarkable Hebrew mother didn't react as her neighbors did
 There were no emotional hysterics,
 No screaming,
 Rather **Jochebed stayed calm.**

1. STAY CALM.

2. THINK CLEARLY

What do you do when facing a crises?

Lose it, do you say: "I'm so confused I just can't think"

Do you blame others?

Do you make excuses?

Do you fall apart?

Or do you stop and pray?

Do you believe that God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine,
 According to his power that is at work within us?

**20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine,
 according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in
 Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21**

We don't know where Jochebed hid her beautiful baby boy for three months,
 Nor do we know at what point God gave her the idea
 to hide the child in a basket in the Nile River
 at the very spot where the Pharaoh's daughter came daily to bathe.

But we do know when she could hide him any longer,
 She worked feverishly to weave a basket of bulrushes.
 Coated it with tar and pitch.

**When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. ³ But when she
 could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and
 pitch. Exodus 2:2-3**

How can you hide a baby,
 And how do you keep its voice from crying in the night?

We stay calm,

We think clearly.

Yea thou I walk thru the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil.

If God is with us, can we fear no evil?

Do you trust God presence as your shield and protection today?

Do you Remain calm

Think clearly.

So Jochebed looked out side her home for help

She looked in the same direction the danger was coming for help.

She studied the Pharaoh's daughter's habits, routine, daily pattern.

She was the first fire fighter.

Firefighters who are smart they don't run from fires.

They look to the very same fire to fight the fire.

They start fires to stop fires.

Jochebed look at the face of death in the Pharaoh's family for help
 And found life for her baby son.

How else would Jochebed know that the
 young princess would bath at a certain place.
 At a certain time,
 But her thinking didn't stop there.
 She expected the young Princess to find the little basket.
 She expected the little baby to cry.
 She must have prayed that the baby would cry out.
 Women are just softies for babies.

When I was flying from Forth worth this past week,
 A young mother and her baby were on the plane.
 I happened to get the seat behind them.
 As we were getting settled, the baby was fussing.
 I don't remember how many women stopped to help
 One older woman said: I'm a professional grandmother,
 And I have lots of grandkids and they love me and I just love babies.
 I can help hold any time you need me.
 Even the stewardess took her turn and held the child.

Jochebed went even farther with her plan,
 She must have carefully rehearsed
 with her little seven year old daughter day after day
 what she would say as her part of the plan in saving the baby.
 And 7 year old Miriam's eyes must have danced in excitement each day
 as she replied. "I am ready Momma, I'm ready."

Finally the day arrived.
 Jochebed placed her baby in a basket in the water.
 Stationed Miriam nearby,
 Stood apart hidden by the bulrushes.
 When Pharaoh's daughter arrived,
 She walked along the bank for the place to bath,
 and spotted the basket and asked her slave girl to retrieve it.

⁵ Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the river bank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her slave girl to get it. Exodus 2:5

When the princess opened the basket
 The angels must have pinched baby Moses,
 He began to cry and she exclaimed.

⁶ She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," Exodus 2:6

That was 7 year old Miriam's cue.
 She ran to Pharaoh's daughter and asked:

⁷ Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?" Exodus 2:7

The Princess said:

⁸ "Yes, go," she answered. And the girl went and got the own baby's mother. Exodus 2:8

Jochebed was a mother of faith who

**1. REMAIN CALM,
2. THINK CLEARLY,
3. TRUST GOD.**

Trusting God isn't always easy.

It wasn't easy for me to stay calm and think clearly in Forth Worth,
When in our small legislative group of 21 discussing the resolutions,
And they moved to change our discipline and redefine scripture.
We lost the vote.

Then when we met in the larger legislative group of 97
again and again we lost the vote.

I tried to remained calm, think clearly,
And to trust God.

I never prayed so hard in my life,
When you see even the elect deceived.

That fourth morning I was awakened at 5:00 a.m.
the words came to me to pray that "God would deceive the deceiver."
I asked God to give me some affirmation.

At 9:00 that morning I was at the conference and met a young lay woman from Seattle,
I was expressing my concerns about the vote splitting the church.

And she said: She believe that God was faithful and would sustain the church.

In fact she said: Just this morning her 16 year old daughter had called.

And told her that she had been awakened to pray at around 5:00 a.m.

She said: Mom I'm praying that the "deceiver would be deceived."

When I told her that those were the exact words I had received.

She said: I just got goose bumps all over.

God was faithful and the vote of 990 delegates was to sustain the Book of Discipline
And uphold the Word of God.

CAN WE TRUST GOD?

Jochebed trusted God in the 'midst of mortal crises.

How can you save a baby in a foreign land?

Under a curse of death?

How could you get an Egyptian Princes
to break the law of Pharaoh

And take a Hebrew baby as her own?

And then pay its Hebrew Mother to raise it?

Jochobed trusted God.

² Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him. Exodus 2:9

Friends when we trust God, nothing is impossible.

I don't know what crisis you're facing today?

I don't know what shadows of death cling to your heart,

I don't know the brokenness you face,

The anxieties you fear,

But I do know God cares about you.

About the detail of your life.

Will you trust him today.
 Jochebed three rules applied to us today.

**Stay calm,
 Think Clearly,
 Trust God completely.**

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. Proverbs 3:5-6 TLB

Jochebed knew that God was in absolute control.
 She took the child home with her,
 Now under the protection of the Pharaoh's daughter.

Was her work done?

No.

Because she knew that she had but only six years
 to raise that child after the true God of Israel,
 Before she would him over to a Pagan Princes and her beliefs.
 She took him back and the Pharaoh's daughter named him Moses:

"I drew him out of the water."

When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, ^{E3} saying, "I drew him out of the water." Exodus 2:1-10

On this Mothers Day: I want to encourage every women here,
 That nothing in this life is more important than the work you do in
 imparting character, wisdom, and faith to the children in your life.

Don't give up mothers. Don't give up, teachers, Don't give up, Friends and neighbors,
 Stay faithful.

Raise your children in the Lord.

Because we as adults never get away from the early years of our training.

The instructions we received as a young child
 go with us throughout life safely "tucked away"
 As was evident in the life of Jochebed three children.
 Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

Its true Jochebed didn't live long enough to see God's plan accomplished.
 Jochebed's name is mentioned only twice in the Bible (Numbers 26:59 and Exodus 6:20)
 But 33 hundred years after her death
 Her name is still remember
 as one of the great faithful mothers of history.
 Because without her- the plan would have failed to save God's chosen people.

So mothers, remember when your in a crises and your tested and tried,
 follow JOCHEBBED'S example.

1. Stay calm, 2. Think clearly 3. And trust God completely.

And leave the rest in His hands?

Be that faithful mother God has called you to be.