

## 2009 HERO #5 WOMAN OF FAITH -MIRIAM AND JOCHABED

### Exodus 2:1-9

Today were looking at a people who went from Triumph to tragedy,  
 Joseph was second in command in Egypt  
 And had saved his people by binging them to Egypt.  
 But a new Pharaoh arose who didn't know Joseph,  
 The government conscripted their land,  
 The new Governor nationalizes their sheep industry.  
 Bankrupt their finances,  
 Put them under strict surveillance with slave masters and czars  
 And gave a decree to kill all their babies to keep them from multiplying.  
 We all know people in tragedy. Some of us have been their ourselves

I read one time about a man who swallowed an egg whole. He was afraid to move because he was afraid it would break. But he was afraid to sit still because he was afraid it would hatch. There are a lot of people like that today--so frenetic, so pressured they don't know which way to go. And the place where the pressure and restlessness is often the most sever is in the home.

Jochebed, Moses mother, had just delivered a baby boy  
 And now that baby was condemned to die.  
 Miriam his seven-year-old sister asked her mother "what will we do?"  
 This was a major tragedy in this home.  
 And what would it take to save the doomed baby.

Jochebed and Miriam did not react as their neighbors.  
 There were no hysterics,  
 No screaming,  
 Rather  
 Jochebed said: "We will do what we always do,  
 We will be calm, think clearly, and trust God."  
 As we look at our lives isn't that good advice for us as well.  
 First

### I. STAY CALM

Now that is easy for us to say,  
 But how does a young mother stay calm  
 Facing the death of her baby?

Some of you have faced the possibilities of the death of a child.  
 Some of you have had a child die.  
 You know the panic feeling,  
 The hopeless and helpless  
 When things are out of your control.

Every person at some time in their lfe will face crises,  
 Whether it is medical, family, accident, or in the work place.  
 Whether it's loosing our hard drive or our car keys or our job, or our spouse,  
 We will face these times.  
 What will you do?

Robert Flaherty a young film director had spent many months in the far north looking for iron ore and cod. He found neither, but he did shoot 70,000 feet of film in his travels. Someone encouraged him to edit the film and make a documentary, which Flaherty spent weeks doing. But just as he finished, a match from his cigarette dropped among the celluloid film, consuming the entire film and burning Flaherty badly.

His response to this great tragedy was a determination to return to the far north and make a film of Eskimo life. He did just that, and the result was the classic 1922 documentary, Nanook of the North.

[Today in the Word, July 19, 1993.](#)

Staying calm isn't easy,  
Nor is it always safe.  
It can be very frightening,  
Because we don't know the outcome,

**<sup>1</sup> Now a man of the house of Levi married a Levite woman, <sup>2</sup> and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months.**

We have no record of where Jochebed hid Moses for three months,  
But we can guess what Jochebed did those three months?  
She prayed.  
She fasted  
She loved,  
She must have talked with her husband.  
What are we going to do.  
We don't know where her husband was in this deal.  
Perhaps he had so lost himself in despair and fear that he wasn't any help.  
Too tired from making bricks and building pyramids to care.  
Or did Jochebed have to hide the baby from him as well.

Sometime we men don't handle crises very well.  
Patrick Morley tells of a business man who recently,  
Faced an economic meltdown.  
His company hit bottom,  
His employees all left him  
His customers were long gone,  
His wife had divorced him.,  
He had been reduced to living in his office..  
And it was a pigsty.  
Papers cluttered every available surface,  
Tin trays from TV dinners were stacked around,  
He was disheveled and depressed.  
He was in a panic doing nothing to manage himself  
And as a result he wasn't surviving very well.

But you see that wasn't Jochebed,  
She stayed calm,  
She kept up her routines,  
her house, her sleeping pattern, and her work  
And She kept her communication with God.  
Jochebed stayed calm

Second

## II. THINK CLEARLY

People in a panic don't think clearly.

Were talking about a young mother who already has a daughter to raise.

Was she thinking clearly putting her daughter life in jeopardy?

Or do children handle crisis better than us adults.

They shame us in their willingness to risk more for God?

**During the civil rights movement, A first grader went on her first day to a newly integrated school at the height of the** segregation storm. An anxious mother met her at the door to inquire, "How did everything go, honey?"

"Oh, Mother! You know what? A little black girl sat next to me!"

The mother expected trauma, but tried to ask calmly:

"And what happened?"

"We were both so scared that we held hands all day."

We do not know when the idea came to Jochebed,

But I believe God gave her direction

in the clarity of her mind in thoughtful prayer,

**<sup>3</sup> But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Exodus 2:3**

If God wanted to give you an idea for your family, for your life,

What part of your day would he find you listening?

Do we ever close our Bible and sit and listen?

Perhaps it happened like this:

Jochebed had just finished telling little Miriam,

The story of Noah and the Flood.

And how God had saved his family from disaster.

When the inspiration came.

The Hebrew word for Basket is used in the Bible

only here and for Noah's ark. Gen 6:14

Moses basket was a miniature version of the large seaworthy papyrus boats.

It was woven of reeds and

Lined with pitch and tar to make it watertight.

All because she listened.

All the while she reworked that little boat

She rehearsed that little girl in what she would say.

Miriam's job was specific, Her assignment was to:

**Stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. Exodus 2:4**

This was a serious work for a little girl.

Jochebed risked that if the baby was found,

He would be slain right in front of his 7 yr old sister.

The girl could panic and all could be lost,

Including the family for breaking the rule of the pharaoh.

To what seven-year-old today, would you trust the life of your baby?

We don't know how many days she stood and watched.

for the Pharaoh's daughter to find the basket.  
 It was one thing to hid the baby in a reed basket on the Nile.  
 It was another thing to have it found by the Pharaoh's daughter.

Would you trust an idol worshiper,  
 A pagan,  
 And enemy to raise your child.  
 Because Jochebed is not just trusting Pharaoh's daughter  
 To baby sit.  
 She is trusting her to adopt.

Today we don't trust anyone with our children.  
 We hardly will allow for babysitters or nursery care workers  
 To watch our children without supervision.  
 We have all kinds of cameras, pagers, security devices.

In my daughter's church in Rochester  
 Their nursery is so updated that when Donna and I dropped off  
 Our grandchildren, they stopped us to get pictures of each of us.  
 So that when we come back to pick up our children,  
 They can see if our pictures matches who we are.

But Jochebed this young mother is not just trusting Pharaoh's daughter to baby sitter,  
 She is trusting her to adopt.  
 And be the mother of her child.  
 Some of you have given up a child for adoption,  
 You know the agony of that decision.  
 But Jochebed stays calm,  
 Thinks clearly,  
 worked feverishly to finish the basket of bulrushes  
 and placed it in the Nile and walked away.

**Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile.  
 4 His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. Exodus 2:3-4**

And now the most important of our trilogy,  
 She

### **III. TRUST GOD COMPLETELY**

When is the last time you had to trust God completely?  
 Couldn't rely on the world, medicine, machines, or mankind?  
 All that was left was you and God?

People today are facing issue that take them beyond this world remedies.  
 Sometimes its financial,  
 Sometime moral,  
 Sometime it is spiritual.

Not long ago I was visiting with a person  
 Who health had taken a sever turn.  
 The family thought they had lost her.  
 IN intensive care I asked her how were things going,  
 She said: Yesterday all was lost.  
 Her body had shut down,

Doctors couldn't do anything.  
 She said: but in the midst of this crisis,  
 I was able to turn it all over to God.  
 And she said: I found such a wonderful peace.  
 I have never experienced that before.

What about you can you trust God for your life?  
 Can God make possible what seem impossible in my world today?

A minister was making a home visit to a young family in his parish. A five-year-old boy answered the front door and told the minister his mother would be there shortly. To make some conversation, the minister asked the little boy what he would like to be when he grows up. The boy immediately answered, "I'd like to be possible."  
 The puzzled pastor asked: "What do you mean by that?"  
 The boy replied: "Well, you see, just about every day my mom tells me I'm impossible!"

Are you living with the impossible right now?  
 Trust God.  
 Jochebed did just that as she  
 placed the basket in the water.  
 She stationed Miriam nearby,  
 Hidden by the bulrushes.

**<sup>5</sup> Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the river bank. Exodus 2:5**

When Pharaoh's daughter arrived, the princess .

**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 baby began to cry.

Isn't God good.  
 He probably pinched that baby so that mother's instinct  
 of the princess would kick in and want to hold and comfort that child.  
 This is the only place in the Bible that tells of an infant crying. Genesis 2:6

Then the Princess exclaimed:

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

What mother can resist the cry of a baby?  
 Even in church when a baby cries.  
 All the mothers look in that direction and  
 I loose you for awhile.

Because if the baby continues to cry:  
 All the mothers here are giving silent advice to that young mother.  
 Take em out.  
 Walk em,  
 Feed em  
 Change em,  
 Human emotions are used of God to move his kingdom forward.  
 That was Miriam's cue.

She ran up to Pharaoh daughter,  
Acting as if they had never seen the child before.  
And casually asked

**<sup>7</sup> 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 replied.  
Yes go.

**<sup>8</sup> "Yes, go," she answered. And the girl went and got the baby's mother.**

What if the princess would have said No?  
What would Miriam have done?

Run,  
Cry,

I don't think that Jochebed rehearsed any negative replies.

She implicitly trusted God for this moment.

She stayed focused.

Kept to the only response possible to keep that little baby alive.

And God is faithful.

The Pharaoh's daughter said:

**<sup>8</sup> "Yes, go," she answered. And the girl went and got the baby's mother. Exodus 2:8**

When we stay Calm,

Think clearly,

And Trust God implicitly

We are rewarded abundantly.

**<sup>2</sup> Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." Exodus 2:9**

Not only did Jochebed save Moses life,

But she saved her own and her families life.

Some 80 years later she save her nations life.

When Moses her son, this baby, delivered the people from Egypt.

Oh the tears of joy and thanksgiving that must have flowed,

As Jochebed and Miriam hurried home

With the child saved from a riverbank death.

**Jochebed name means : Jehovah is our glory.**

**She lived up to her name.**

**Controlled her emotions**

**Stayed calm,**

**thought clearly and**

**trusted God implicitly.**

**And teaching her children the same.**

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 remembered as one of the great mothers of history.

Will you trust God today.

**Who is able to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.**

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

Let us thank God today for the example of these women of faith.  
A faithful mother and an obedient child.

Lord, Today I pray for those who are in crises, who are in the midst of a difficult time, help every one to remain calm, think clearly, and to trust God implicitly.  
That in every circumstance we are able to see the hand of God at work in our midst.