

## 2009 HERO #6 MOSES –MAN OF FAITH

Exodus 2:11-25

Last week we saw triumph overcome tragedy,  
With the Rescue of Moses by the Egyptian princess.  
Today we're dealing with the question,  
How does a parent raise a believing child when they  
Only have 6 years to train him?

Jochebed had about six years to raise Moses  
And then hand him back to the pagan princess.  
Would Moses lose his soul in the wealth and splendor of Egypt's royalty  
And in the worship of Baal?

I read a remarkable story in a USA Today Forum that  
quoted a 2008 study published in Sociological quarterly that indicated  
regular church attendance positively affected student grade point averages.

Barbara Newman, Northwestern University Professor of English, Religions and Classics.  
Said: "Students who want to do serious study of western civilization need to know the  
Bible. They need to know the Bible even if they do not believe the Bible."

Harvard professor Robert Kieley agrees,  
He found an overwhelming consensus among top professors that incoming college  
students need to be well versed in the stories, themes and words of the Bible.  
"If a student doesn't know any Bible literature, he or she will simply not understand  
whole elements of Shakespeare, Sidney, Spenser, Milton, Pope, or writing of  
Wordsworth."  
The article went on to say that one needs a knowledge of the Bible to understand  
today's pop culture. Like Jim Carrey's screwball spiritualities in "Bruce Almighty"  
or the irreverent humor on Comedy central.

Newman says: "Student's growing up in nonreligious homes  
With little Bible knowledge are often behind the curve.  
And have a major disadvantage.

What is amazing is that three states,:  
Georgia, Texas and Tennessee have passed laws in recent years  
calling for public high schools to offer elective courses that teach the Bible  
"in an objective and non-devotional manner with no attempt to indoctrinate students."

Now you and I as Christians may hope that teaching God's word will  
Whet the appetite for more.  
And if nonbelieving parents find out about this advantage,  
That their schools aren't teaching the bible.  
They may want their kids to be high achievers and  
Just start taking them to church.

Jochebed taught Moses about God word.

## I. MOSES FAMILY

<sup>10</sup> When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, <sup>F3</sup> saying, "I drew him out of the water." Exodus 2:10

It was the Princess who named the child and not the mother.

Moses, saying,

"I drew him out of the water:"

Exodus 2:10

What advice would you have given Jochebed for raising Moses before turning him over to this pagan princess?

In a sense today you and I face the Pagan princess

In our secular school systems and pop culture society.

We are going to turn our child over to this system for 12 or more years..

If we wait until our child is in school to pass on our faith.

We are too late.

Child-rearing is like baking a cake.

You don't realize you have a disaster until it's too late."

The Bible says: **Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6.**

The root word of "train up" in the Hebrew is a word used to describe the roof of the mouth.

The Hebrew mid-wife after delivering a baby would dip her finger in a paste made of dates and rub it on the gums of the new baby to create thirst and start the baby's feeding instinct.

(Charles Swindoll. You and Your Child. ( Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1977)

We parents are to create a thirst in our child for the right things.

What is your favorite food,

my guess would be that it is what you grew up enjoying at your family table.

What is your favorite color?

Your favorite nursery rhyme?

It is amazing that we never get very far from our early years of child raising.

People recall what they learned as a child.

They can recite the 23 psalms.

And everyone here remembers his or her childhood bedtime or mealtime prayer.

If you were a liar as a child

You are probably a liar as an adult.

If you were self centered and spoiled as a child.

You're probably spoiled as an adult.

We carry our childhood throughout life,

safely tucked away in the personalities we develop

If your parents loved the Lord,

Chances are today that you love the Lord.

And you follow the things of God.

**Deuteronomy 6:5-7, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. (6) And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. (7) You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.” (NKJV)**

Jochebed loved Miriam, Aaron, and Moses  
 She taught them Godly wisdom, character, and faith in  
 The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Now it's likely she didn't live long enough to see God's plan accomplished.

What are you teaching your children?  
 A couple of weeks ago I watched a grandmother here in Aberdeen  
 Teach her grandchildren about responsibility.  
 We had a call for someone to pull weeds.  
 What teenage would do that?  
 But I was so proud of the grandmother who said:  
 I will bring the grandkids in to help.  
 She went with them,  
 She supervised the work,  
 And the kids were paid well,  
 Because they were willing to work, and they were taught to work.

Work equals responsibility,  
 Responsibility equals respect,  
 Respect equals a sense of well being.

We have a responsibility to train our children up in the Lord.  
 Jochebed did all she could

## **II. MOSES FAITH**

It's one thing to be raised as a Godly child,  
 But it's another thing to keep it as a young adult.  
 What is our responsibility in developing our own faith?  
 The Apostle Paul warns us.

**Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. Philippians 2:12-13**

Young people you have a responsibility to work out your faith.  
 To work out your own system of belief.  
 Don't rely on what your parents are doing,  
 Or what your teachers are saying.  
 Open your own Bible.

Now the fear and trembling  
 Come when we forget God, get ahead of God, or reject God.  
 We can mess things up for God.

**One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. Exodus 2:11**

Moses was about 40 years old at this time,  
And notice he knew he was a Hebrew.  
Because he **went out to where his own people were.**

**He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people.**

Here again he sees the Hebrew as one of his own people.

**Glancing this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. Exodus 2:11-12**

He acted impulsively to rescue them.

God had a plan to rescue the Hebrew people.

**God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them Exodus 2:24-25**

Whether Moses had gotten out of step with God living in Egyptian royalty,  
He now acted out of a Hebrew's heart of compassion,  
And an Egyptian's hand for justice.  
He killed the Taskmaster.

Moses doesn't inquire of God what to do for his people  
He acts out of his own self direction.  
He uses a pagan Egyptian solution for Hebrew concern.  
In other words, He uses the world's solutions to solve a spiritual problem.

Friends you can use the world solutions for your problems,  
But all you do is exaggerate them, exasperate them,  
God was probably training Moses, like Joseph,  
To use Egypt power from within to lead the Hebrews out.  
But now Moses is no good to God in Egypt.  
He has to free.

**The next day he went out and saw two Hebrew fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, "Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?" The man said: Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian? Then Moses was afraid and thought, "What I did must have become known." Exodus 2:13-14**

Nobody likes somebody who plays both sides.  
You can't call yourself a Christian and live like the world.  
You will get no respect from either side.  
And you will find yourself  
Alone, fleeing, and in a desert of despair,  
God needs to take Moses out to where he can listen.

I know that Christianity isn't easy.  
C.S. Lewis said: If you're coming to Christianity to make you happy.  
Forget it. A bottle of port or alcohol would do that.  
If you want religion to make your really comfortable,  
I certainly do not recommend Christianity."

G.K. Chesterton so concisely wrote:

"It is not that Christianity has been tried and found wanting,  
but tried and found difficult."

The difference between the Christian and the world,  
Is that the Christian chooses the road on which the shadow of the cross falls.  
This may be a painful road,  
but it always lead to freedom and victory.

**When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh  
and went to live in Midian, where he sat down by a well. Exodus 2:15**

### III. MOSES' FUTURE

Let us remember that God never forgets his people's misery,  
Nor their suffering.  
Nor their sin.

Moses mistake was to rescue his people from slavery,  
When God wanted to rescue them from pagan idolatry.  
They had fallen away, trusting Egypt's Idols rather than God.  
We see it all thru the whining complaints of the people  
When God sends Moses to rescue the people.

If you are a Christian because you want physical healing, happiness, or success,  
You will be sadly disappointed.  
God is not some cosmic pharmacy rushing to your comfort or healing.  
That would make us use God.  
We can't use God.  
God must use us.  
And that is why Christianity is not a healing, happiness, or a success cult.

Christianity's primary purpose is to redeem man from sin and evil  
Now the by product of that redemption brings him  
true success, true happiness, and true healing.  
But if we seek health first we loose it,  
It will evade us.

But if we seek first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness and then all these things  
including, health, success, and happiness will be added to us.

**But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given  
to you as well. Matthew 6:33**

God wills health  
Disease is not the will of God,  
God wills freedom,  
Slavery is not the will of God.  
But God allows each of these things to get our attention.  
What does God use to get Moses attention?  
Some 40 years latter.  
When Moses was 80 Years old.

**The angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in flames of fire from within a bush.  
Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought I  
will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up. When the**

**Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush.  
Moses, Moses. And Moses said: "Here I am". Exodus 3:2-4**

It is sad to say, but the average American  
Needs a crises to call him out of his wilderness of self centeredness.  
We have a world full of middle age persons  
Who have no more idea today of what they believe  
Then when they were 14 years old.

They are no closer to God  
No better able to pray,  
Or listen to the voice of God.

What must God allow to happen to us  
To get our attention to stop and listen?.  
It won't be a burning bush,  
But it might be a burning economy?  
A bankrupt government?  
An enslaved financial market.  
Or a shrunken mortgage.  
America must wake up before we find ourselves  
in the drought of Egypt.

Here's the good news.  
The more crises we are facing,  
The greater the opportunity for God to use us.

**I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out  
because of their slave drivers and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have  
come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out  
of that land into a good and spacious land. A land flowing with milk and honey..  
Exodus 3:7-8**

Flannery O'Connor, the insightful Roman Catholic writer, lifted up the Christian  
dimension: "You will have found Christ when you are concerned with other people's  
sufferings and not your own." The beginning of compassion involves becoming aware of  
the suffering of others.

Moses saw the suffering of others,  
But he didn't feel it himself,  
Until he was isolated from them.

You may never know God /without an obstacle.  
You may never see God heal/ until your sick  
You will never see God save/ until you know you're a sinner.  
You may never see God rescue his people/ until you get involved.

The Good news is when you let God heal you, redeem you, and remake you, you are  
never too old to be useful to God. Moses was 80 years old when he led the people.  
Moses family prepared him,  
Moses faith challenged him,  
Moses future moved him to save a nation for God.