



8 | EXODUS 2:1-10

COURAGEOUS MOTHERHOOD

Keep your eyes on God and walk by faith, even in oppression

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O Lord, you have searched me and known me! ² You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.... ¹³ For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. ¹⁷ How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! ¹⁸ If I would count them, they are more than the sand.

Songs

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Announcements:

GIVING: You can give over Zelle through your bank with no fees. Also, we have a new secured mailbox at the church, so you may also give by sending a check to Living Hope, 6N171 Gary Avenue, Roselle, IL 60172.

COURAGEOUS MOTHERHOOD

Exodus 2:1-10

Introduction

Happy Mother's Day! We are looking at how God meets us in our families in **Exodus 2**. The title of our message today is "Courageous Motherhood."

It's Mother's Day. Of course, there is nothing in Scripture which suggests that today is a religious holiday. Mosaic Law *does* command us to honor our mothers and fathers, so it is a fine tradition that we have, especially since the Bible has much to say about how we as Christians raise our families.

I'm sure that Moses would be shocked to know that Mother's Day is a 25-billion-dollar yearly industry. That includes cards, flowers, gifts, candy, and special outings. But a significant portion of those gifts and cards today go not just to the mothers who gave us birth, but also to the many women who influenced our lives. Moses would appreciate this as he was influenced by a number of women in his life that we are going to look at today.

So today's message is not specifically for mothers, but for all the women of our church, because you are all mothers in the faith or ladies that will become mothers in the faith. We look to you for nurture and guidance.

Context

We come to a time where God's people are enslaved in Egypt. The mothers are forced to give up their children to the murderous Egyptian soldiers who drown them in the Nile River. What a horrible time to be alive as a mother. **It took great courage to be a mother then, and it takes great courage today.** What is it that helps mothers be so courageous? If you are a mom, you know you cannot do this alone. God is with you in any kind of difficulty or even oppression that you face. The Egyptians oppressed the Jewish mothers, and so many would not give in to that oppression. God is with you too.

Today mothers are encouraged by our modern Egypt of this world to murder their babies, and those who live, they are called to give them to the Baals of mindlessness and worldliness.

This morning we are looking at the mother of Moses: Jochebed. What a courageous woman. What we are going to find out is that she was surrounded by courageous women, and she chose to live her family life by faith.

Again, please do not think that we are speaking only to moms today. In this passage about this woman Jochebed, there are lessons courageous Christian living (faith) for every person here, whether they be male or female, young or old, saved or lost. God has a word for you this morning.

1. A COURAGEOUS FAITH (2:1-10)


Moses' mother, named Jochebed, was quietly courageous in a number of ways. We know the story: she saved her son Moses from being murdered by Egyptian taskmasters in the Nile River. And we say: what courage! But I think if you asked her, she'd tell you she's just living in quiet faith.

Let's consider the foundations for a godly family. Why was Jochebed chosen to bear Moses, the great deliverer of the Old Testament? I believe she and her husband Amram, from what we can tell by the text, were faithful, humble servants of God. I want every marriage to be that way.

A FAITH THAT SEEKS A GODLY MARRIAGE

Like Amram and Jochebed, we ought to seek a **godly, believing mate**. Verse 1, "Now a man from the house of Levi went and took as his wife a Levite woman". In Israel, most marriages were arranged by father and mother. We know that Jochebed leaned heavily on her mother and father to help her choose the right man. It was a man from the house of Levi. That's the tribe that would later become the priests.

You know I've seen both young men and young women settle when it comes to a godly mate. I've seen young people do "evangelism dating". I don't recommend that.

 Pastor Michael, Wouldn't you agree that choosing the right mate is a very important step for a lot of God's people? Many are seeking for a mate. That's an important expression of our faith, right?

Who we choose to marry, if we are called to marriage, is a direct expression of our faith in Jesus Christ. I believe God's people, and especially young people need to depend on the wisdom of their parents (especially if they know Christ) and godly leaders as they seek a mate.

It's good to be married. The book of Proverbs says, "He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD" (**Proverbs 18:22**).

But it's not ok to be attracted to just anyone. I'm sometimes shocked at how little standards Christian young people have for finding the right mate. A potential mate should be a person of **deep and devoted faith**. The person we seek in marriage must be a growing believer in Christ.

Proverbs 31:30, "Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised".

Paul say in **2 Corinthians 6:14**, “Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers.” The unmarried believer is free to marry, but “only in the Lord” (**1 Cor 7:39**).

Men, find a woman that loves the Lord! Ladies, wait for a man that loves the Lord. Even if you don't have a godly mate, you are responsible to be a godly mate yourself. You've got to remember, once you are married, you are in a covenant which God has joined together, and whatever God joins together, God says, “let not man separate”.

Moses was born into a home that was under great hardship, but he had a mom and dad who loved the Lord.

A FAITH THAT SEEKS TO RAISE GODLY CHILDREN

Like Amram and Jochebed, we ought to seek to raise children, if God blesses you with them, for Christ. And in a healthy marriage, it's not always the case, but most of the time, God blesses with children.

EXODUS 2:2 | The woman conceived and bore a son.

Raising children in dangerous times is a vital expression of our faith. Amram and Jochebed were slaves in Egypt, but they found time to be with each other. They had three children under terrible, awful circumstances. Most people today balk at the idea of having more than one or two children in a culture of comfort.

God commands his married people to not only conceive children—that by the way was the first command to the first couple! “**Be fruitful and multiply**”. The Bible in both Old and New Testament give us a theology of the physical union, and it is to be enjoyed, but only in marriage. As a rule in the Scriptures, before marriage you are forbidden from sexual relations, but within marriage, you are commanded not to abstain from sexual relations.

You can see their courageous faith in Jochebed's willingness to bear children in a time of danger and crisis. Babies were being murdered, thrown into the Nile River to be drowned. It would have been easy not to have any more children, but this was a mom and dad that chose to have children by faith, even in a culture of death. What would the world have been like if the parents of Moses would have decided against having any more children? They were bringing a child into a dangerous world, but they were not controlled by fear, but courageous faith.

As parents founded on Christ, we ought to bless the world with children who love God, who are raised in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, no matter how dangerous the day is.

However much the evil is around us, we are not to isolate our children from the world, but to equip them and get them ready to reach this sin cursed world. And that's what Jochebed did. She was courageous. She had a baby boy. As we like to say: “You don't know whose sitting in that highchair.”

Think about it. Moses has to be one of the greatest tools of God in the Bible. Moses is just a man, but he was a willing instrument. He wrote the first five books of your Bible, Genesis through Deuteronomy. He is mentioned over 700 times in the Bible. He is mentioned in 31 of the 66 books of the Bible. Jesus Christ quotes Moses over 35 times in the four gospels.

What if Moses' parents were selfish and refused to have kids during this time? But God blessed their faith!

A FAITH THAT IS WILLING TO SUFFER

EXODUS 2:2 | The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months.

Jochebed is usually lost in the shadow of her famous son, Moses, and although she is many times forgotten, surely in Heaven Jochebed is well known. Jesus reminds us that there will be those who are “last which shall be first and first which shall be last” (Lk 13:30).

 Pastor Michael, Why was Moses' mother Jochebed's faith so extraordinary?

Jochebed was aware, when she was expecting a new arrival in the family, that if the child should be a boy—the decree was that the male baby would have to perish in the Nile River—and if the parents disobeyed, they too were subject to death.

The Bible says that she hid her son for three months. At the end of that three-month period of time, young Moses must have found his lungs.

Have you ever tried to keep a baby from crying? Soldiers are marching up and down in the little slave huts of the Israelite people, listening to hear the cry of a baby boy. She knew that time would come when she couldn't hide her baby. But she didn't stop having kids just because she didn't know the future. She trusted God in a very dangerous world.

It is important to teach our kids by example how to live by faith in a dangerous world, raising them to love Jesus. That entails that we as parents live a life of authentic faith. Their main goal was not keeping the family comfortable. We cannot always keep ourselves or our kids from danger. We must teach our kids to please God and to live by faith. We are going to see that when you radically trust God, he radically blesses your faith.

Someone once said that the safest place in the universe is in the center of God's will!

A FAITH THAT TRUSTS GOD FOR THE SALVATION OF OUR CHILDREN

There came a time when Moses' parents couldn't hid him. What did they do? They lived out their faith and trusted God to save their little baby Moses.

EXODUS 2:3-10 | When she could hide him no longer, she took for him a basket made of bulrushes and daubed it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child in it and placed it among the reeds by the river bank. ⁴And his sister stood at a distance to know what would be done to him.

Like Amram and Jochebed, we need to seek the **salvation of our children**. At the end of three months when she found that the boy could not be hidden, she decided that something else had to be done. I understand the desire on the part of you parents to shelter your children. You do it because you love your child so very desperately and you want to keep them out of the dangerous river of the culture in which we live.

There is a time to shelter your child, but there is also a time to trust God. Sooner or later these young people right here, if they haven't already, are going to go out into a river of destruction that is dedicated to ruining and wrecking and marring and staining their life. And the only safety in the raging water of this world, is to know Christ. **If your kids don't know Christ, they will be taken by this world.**

Moses' Ark

So Moses' parents built a little basket-boat, a sort of Ark for Moses to go safely through the currents of the Nile.

 Pastor Michael, why might have Moses parents built a little ark for baby Moses?

I can imagine that these parents begin to search through their Old Testament Scriptures. There was not a great deal of it at that time, perhaps the book of **Genesis** and a little bit more. The book itself was not written, **only the oral history** of the Genesis account and the things that were going on.

Maybe as they thought of God's Word, it may be that they came to the account of Noah and the fact that God said, "Noah there is going to come a flood." Noah discovered the only thing he could do for his family when the flood was on the way. The Bible says that Noah prepared an ark to the saving of his family.

I can imagine that Moses' parents said, "That's exactly what we'll do. We can't keep this child from going into the Nile River, but before he goes into the river we'll be sure that we get him in an ark."

They begin to build an ark. They would have made it out of papyrus and lined it with clay and they would have pitched it with a natural tar polymer within and without. They took that precious little boy Moses and they put him down in the ark and then they put the ark in the river. Moses was in the river, but he was in the ark.

Our Children's Ark

That is exactly what we need to do for our children. Walk together with them as you walk with Christ. Point them to Christ at an early age.

The only safe place on earth for your child is to know Christ. This world is a raging rapids, but there is no fear if your child knows Christ. There is only one thing that will cure that! Salvation in Christ. Mother, is your child safe? Be courageous!

Young people, I am saying to you that the only thing that will keep you safe, in the rivers of culture in which you are getting ready to swim, will be the fact that you are in the ark of safety, the Lord Jesus Christ. It is Christ who can carry you through. It is Christ who ultimately can shelter you from the problems and difficulties that undoubtedly come your way.

One more time this morning I plea. **Are you sure you are in the ark?** Have you received Jesus Christ as your Lord and as your Savior? If you are listening to this message today and if you've never received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, then get in the ark of safety today before you head out into the River Nile.

What an amazing family. No matter what you are going through as a single or as a married person, if you know Christ, you are safe, no matter what happens. God is with you.

But it wasn't just Jochebed who helped Moses. When Moses asked the question that all children eventually ask, "Tell me about when I was born," he would have heard about five women and their influence on his birth and life. They are the courageous women in the life of Moses.

2. THE COURAGEOUS WOMEN (1:8-2:10)

On Mother's Day, these five women inspire and challenge us to act with the same courage and love and remind us to recognize the many life-giving actions of women in our lives.

Out of the five women who helped Moses in his life, only one, as far as we are told, was a mother. The others played key roles in the raising of Moses. So let's be encouraged this Mother's Day. We are all called to make disciples, especially of the children.

Matthew 19:14, Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."

Let's begin with the first two women who truly believed God calls children: the midwives, Shiprah and Puah. They are my heroes.

THE MIDWIVES: SHIPRAH AND PUAH

The first two mothers of Moses were Hebrew midwives, Shiprah and Puah. Their role precedes the birth of Moses, but it is so important that if they had not acted courageously, Moses would not have survived to lead God's people to the Promised Land. Their life-giving act shows up shortly after this beginning ominous verse.

EXODUS 1:8 | Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.

The reference to a new king "who did not know Joseph" likely refers to the expulsion of the Hyksos by the eighteenth dynasty founder, Pharaoh Ahmosis I (1570–1546 B.C.). Moses is born after this, in 1520 B.C.¹ Whoever he is, this new Pharaoh calls two women in and says:

EXODUS 1:16 | When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.


This was Pharaoh's plan to keep harmony and balance. But fortunately, Shiprah and Puah, realize that Pharaoh is a few bricks shy of a pyramid. They not only defy the order; they came up with a clever excuse for why they did. They blamed their failure to do his murderous work on the "vigorous" constitution of the Hebrew women, who would give birth before the midwives could get there. Upon hearing this, Pharaoh became desperate. He issued another edict, commanding:

EXODUS 1:22 | ...all his people, 'Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.'

There is no record whether or not every boy was murdered. It was an edict that was thankfully imperfectly followed.

¹ The 18th dynasty of Egyptian kings is probably most famous in our modern day for King Tut. The Pharaoh of the Exodus was after Ahmosis I, who expelled the Semetic Hyksos, but we can't say for certain who it is. And it's not important. It is often presented in the Hollywood movies that Hebrews helped build the Pyramids, but none of the pyramids are built of mud bricks. That's poor people material. But there is a great city of clay bricks (Amarna) built around this time built by Pharaoh Amenhotep IV (also called Akhenaten), father of King Tut.

Rather, the only the record we have is of the ethics and courageous faith and leadership of Shiphrah and Puah. They are the only women in the Book of Exodus to act in an overtly political sphere.

 Pastor Michael, when I think of Shiphrah and Puah, I have to ask, is there ever a time for a Christian to practice civil disobedience?

Obviously, when the government is asking us to sin either by keeping us from obeying God or by asking us to do evil, we must disobey the government.

For these two midwives, saving lives was their only priority rather than obeying the evil desires of any king or political system. By their actions, they valued the lives of slave babies at the risk of their own lives. Their life-giving courage action made it possible for Moses to survive after his birth. Shiphrah and Puah courageously decide to honor God instead of yielding to human power and paranoia. Moses would learn to do the same.

The Scriptures guide us in civil disobedience. When Peter and the apostles were asked to stop preaching the Gospel, they disobeyed the magistrates command. Peter said:

“We must obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29).

Some have asked if now is the time to disobey the government. The answer is no. The government has not just shut down churches but also the idol factories of this world: sports arenas, movie theatres, gambling casinos. If the government was singling out Christians, we would have to disobey, but they are not.

Instead, we must be patient and also full of faith. There may come a time, even in our lifetime when our government turns decisively against the Church of Jesus. At that time we will obey God. If being faithful means that we risk our lives, then we will do that.

MOTHER JOCHEBED

In this passage, we are introduced to a woman named Jochebed. She stands out as one of the greatest mothers revealed in the pages of Scripture. Her selfless love and sacrifice made possible the Exodus of God's people from Egypt and literally changed the course of history. Exodus introduces her simply:

EXODUS 2:1-2a | Now a man from the house of Levi went and took as his wife a Levite woman. ²The woman conceived and bore a son...

Moses is Jochebed's third child, after Aaron and Miriam. This mother's faith comes out in so many ways.

A Persevering Mother

Jochebed and her husband, Amram, decide to have another child even though they are in a time of national tragedy. During national tragedy and turmoil, people often choose not to have a child or expand their family. But, Jochebed and her husband continued following God even by conceiving and raising children in a dangerous world.

If any Egyptian who saw a Hebrew baby boy could throw that child in the crocodile-filled Nile, to conceive and give birth required courage.

EXODUS 2:2a | ...when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months.

Jochebed recognized that the boy was “a fine baby” which, on the surface, appears to be the kind of thing any mother would say. **Every mother thinks their baby is beautiful, fine.** But if you look at the Hebrew language, you will see that the word fine isn’t just beautiful, but **good**. It is the very same word that God uses to describe creation each day in Genesis 1 as “good.” God has created through Amram and Jochebed and “he is good.” Jochebed somehow sees in the face of her baby God’s claim on his life, sees that he was special to God, that he is good.

Every mother ought to see the calling of God on their child. We ought to hear God’s words in Jeremiah:

Jeremiah 1:5, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

The truth is, you don’t know who’s sitting in that high chair. It could be a faithful prayer warrior, like an Anna who prayed at the Temple, or Antipas in Pergamum, in the book of Revelation who shook the world of that time because of his faithful prayers. You don’t know who you are raising.

Moses’ parents saw that something special was happening with this boy. He wasn’t just fine, as in good enough, but he had a true calling on his life.

A Praying Mother

What do you do when you don’t know what to do? We are told what Jochebed did. She made a basket to put her baby into the Nile. How did she know to do that? It’s not written, but I think we must realize that she was a woman of great prayer.

EXODUS 2:3a | When she could hide him no longer, she took for him a basket made of bulrushes and daubed it with bitumen and pitch....

What wisdom Jochebed had. And where does wisdom come from? Through prayer. If you don’t know what to do, you should pray.

James 1:5, If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

Have you ever noticed that mothers face a lot of times where they need to **pray**? I can imagine that Jochebed was a woman who prayed got an answer from God. What should she do?

And her prayers were informed by the Word of God. As we mentioned, **she must have remembered the story of Noah and how he built an Ark** and covered it with pitch, inside and out. She remembered how Noah and his family went into the Ark and they were saved. She must have thought to herself, “If God did it once, God can do it again.” So with the courage of Noah building an ark...

She had the courage and the prayer life and the holy imagination to believe that God would save again with an Ark. Putting her baby Moses in that papyrus basket, she believed she was placing him in God’s care. God gave Moses a mother who had the courage to believe in him.

A Powerful Mother

Rather than obey Pharaoh, his mother preserves Moses' life. But that meant letting go of her baby into that basket and trusting God. I don't think any mother has the strength in herself to do that. But I believe Jochebed was a woman that was graced with God's Spirit. When a person knows God through his Spirit, even in the Old Testament times, there is always an unction of power. I believe that's how Jochebed could entrust her baby to God.

EXODUS 2:3b | ... she took for him a basket made of bulrushes and daubed it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child in it and placed it among the reeds by the river bank.

I don't get it: she's so **powerful**. The "joy of the Lord" is her "strength" (Neh 10:8). Like the midwives in Exodus chapter 1, Jochebed chooses to disobey an evil decree, and she starts working. She puts together a boat basket, an ark for her baby Moses.

Think of the fear. Think of the courage it took to face it. I'm sure when Jochebed heard Egyptian soldiers coming down their street, she thought the worse was about to happen. I'm sure she panicked every time he cried in the night, asked for a bottle, or needed a diaper. It was her role as a mother to protect him.

Moms, **you are going to have impossible moments in your life**. You are weak; you are exhausted; you are discouraged. Go ahead and build that ark for your kids. You have no strength left most days, so you will need to always depend on the strength of the Lord.

I don't know how she did it, but I do know that "when we are weak, then we are strong, because it is then the power of Christ rests upon us" (2 Cor 12:9ff).


SISTER MIRIAM

God also gave him a clever sister who was part of the plan. Exodus says,

EXODUS 2:4 | And his sister stood at a distance to know what would be done to him.

Miriam went with her mother, watched her mother place her brother in the Nile. Then, she stayed and watched over her brother. We don't know if she was enlisted by Jochebed or if she followed at her own initiative. Either way, she was courageous. She saw Pharaoh's daughter come down to the water for her bath, saw her find the basket and the baby. Remember that the Princess's paranoid father had ordered all the Egyptians to throw the Hebrew baby boys into the river when they found them. She recognized the baby as Hebrew and had a decision to make. At that very moment, Miriam watching, waiting, sees this and bravely acts. Rushing in she...

EXODUS 2:7-8 | ... said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" ⁸And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the girl went and called the child's mother.

 Pastor Michael, Miriam seems like she is being reckless by risking her life to sustain the life of a baby that was under a death penalty just for being a Hebrew boy. What is the balance between radical faith and recklessness?

We need to consider our testimony. Living by faith is not safe. It's not living by the world's comfort zone. We are the people running into the burning building. We are to "take up a cross" as we follow Jesus. But we are never to be foolish or impulsive.

Jesus says in Matthew 10:16, "Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so **be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.**" People who are wise in their risk-taking are high on conscientiousness, which means they are **more deliberate, less impulsive**. They are operating according to God's Word, not their impulse. They care deeply about glorifying God in the outcome.

Nevertheless, a leap of faith often looks really crazy to the outside world. People of faith have grit. They care what God thinks. They are not so much worried about success in the world's eyes, but pleasing God no matter what the cost. They are not foolish or impulsive, but also say with Paul:

Acts 20:24, I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.


What a young woman of courageous faith Moses' big sister Miriam was!

THE PRINCESS: PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER

The Princess could have easily thrown the baby into the deep. It would also have been easy to surmise or even see the connection between Moses and Miriam, and deal with Miriam also as breaking Pharaoh's law. Instead, Miriam's courage inspires Pharaoh's daughter to be kind to Miriam and let the boy be nursed by his biological mother.

A Mother's Compassion

What compassion the Princess had. We don't know if she had any other children. Maybe she was childless. But she had compassion on this little boy that would change the world.

 Pastor Michael, can you read about how she "took pity" on "one of the Hebrews' children"?

EXODUS 2:5-6 | Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her young women walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her servant woman, and she took it. ⁶When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby was crying. She took pity on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."

Pharaoh's daughter is the last of the courageous mothers of Moses and the only one we don't have a name for. The unnamed Princess walking along the Nile finds a baby. She realizes that he is one of the immigrants, racially and religiously despised by her father. **She knows that her father has asked every Egyptian to throw these babies to their death.** Yet, feeling her heart moved to pity, she dares to act, and she adopts him. The princess is not Jewish, nor believes in Yahweh. Yet a nurturing tenderheartedness of a mother is alive in her.

Another Mother's Consolation

Can you imagine losing your child? What must Jochebed had thought as she pushed her son Moses into the Nile River on a little ark? Yet God answered this mother's prayer. **There was nothing Jochebed could do but pray.** It doesn't say what she did, but we must assume that she was **praying and weeping** to the Lord for her child. And the Lord heard her.

EXODUS 2:7-9 | Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?"⁸ And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the girl went and called the child's mother.⁹ And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him.

What joy Jochebed must have experienced to be able to have contact with her little son, to nurse him, and to help raise him.

The stunning part of the story though, the part that alerts us here we have a Princess who prophesies by giving the baby a name: Moses.

EXODUS 2:10 | When the child grew older, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "Because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

 **Pastor Michael, What is so special about the Princess naming the child Moses?**

Moses name means "drawn from the water". Not only was Moses delivered out of the water, but he will deliver God's people from the waters of the Red Sea. So then, for the princess to name him Moses is to prophetically point to the Red Sea deliverance. Isaiah uses the very same words that remind people Moses is the one who "...drew God's people out of the Red Sea" (Isa 63:11) with outstretched arms and a shepherd's staff. Moses the liberator, named by his adoptive mother.

On Mother's Day, these five women inspire and challenge us to act with the same courage and faith. They lived in the Old Testament and lives as it were by a dim light, but we live by the light of the bright sun shining. Christ has come. Let us live by faith!

3. THE GOD WHO INSPIRES COURAGE


GOD'S GOODNESS

As we close, let's consider the God who inspires courage. Here are God's people, and it seems like they are **forgotten in slavery**. But the women, and specifically the mothers were unwilling to turn away from their great God. Little did they know that God was raising up a deliverer in this little baby that these women were rescuing. But **these precious women knew that God is good, all the time**. He is the one who comforts us in our sorrows, and he never, never, never forsakes his people.

And yet though he never forsakes us, he asks us to wait on him. A delay is not a denial. His delays are always motivated by our character growing and conforming to him and his Son Jesus Christ.

GOD'S PLAN

God's plan is perfect. **How do we get a Hebrew into the palace to know the ways of the Egyptians**, to be taught the very best Egyptian education that can be given? God was raising up a deliverer. None of the people knew the specifics of God's plan, but they were all placed in a position where their faith was severely tested, and they trusted God and grew.

 **Pastor Michael, is God's plan for our lives always comfortable?**

Matthew 16:24, Jesus says, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

A cross is not comfortable. **2 Timothy 3:12** says, "Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted". Discomfort is inevitable in the Christian life. You can't avoid it. Stop trying to avoid it. The only way to get through it is to find the eternal weight of glory in knowing Christ that far outweighs your suffering.

We in the West are so often entitled. We just assume our lives are going to be comfortable. Get need to get used to discomfort. People of faith live by carrying a cross.

Remember **Galatians 2:20**, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." Someone on the cross is not worried about this world's comforts.

God's plan does indeed offer us perfect peace, fullness of joy, and divine love that grips us and satisfies us. But none of that is found in the world. It's purchased by Christ and can only be enjoyed by faith as we purpose to know Christ from one level of glory to another.

So we can say, there is no lasting comfort in earthly things, but only lasting comfort in Christ.

As Paul says, "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us" (Rom 8:18).

Conclusion

This is the story of the courageous mothers of the Hebrew nation, who acted as part of God's plan. Of the five courageous women, only one gives birth. Three were without children (as far as we know). One adopted Moses. **But all five were essential in nurturing Moses' life, the life of the great liberator of God's people.**

On Mother's Day, remember, your actions and faith lived out has a profound impact on the world. As you live out your faith, people are pointed to Christ.

All godly women, not just mothers, inspire each of us to act in courageous faith. You remind us to be grateful for our mothers, and not only them, but a wider influence than just one. Even as I honor mothers this day, I also honor the many women, mothers or not, who have shaped and nurtured the faith of the people of this church and our community.

Thank you all and may God bless.