

Courageous Motherhood

Preached by: Matthew S. Black

Text: Exodus 2:1-10

Date: May 9, 2010

Series: Mother's Day

Introduction: Open your Bible to **Exodus 2:1-10**. I'm reading from the English Standard Version of the Bible. I'm giving it a test drive as this Wednesday we are going to start a series on Bible translations.

Exodus 2:1-10, "Now a man from the house of Levi went and took as his wife a Levite woman. 2 The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months."

I. First let's consider the foundations for a great mom and a great home.

A. Like Amram and Jochebed, we ought to seek a **godly mate**. **Verse 1**, "Now a man from the house of Levi went and took as his wife a Levite woman". The book of Proverbs says, "He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD" (**Proverbs 18:22**).

Proverbs 31:30, "Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised". Men, find a woman that loves the Lord! Ladies, wait for a man that loves the Lord.

Explanation: 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".

B. Like Amram and Jochebed, we ought to seek a **healthy marriage**. **Verse 2**, "The woman conceived and bore a son". They 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 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". But the Bible in both Old and New Testament give us a theology of the physical union, and it is to be enjoyed. As a matter of fact, if the husband and wife are not together regularly, there is something spiritually wrong, because the physical as a general rule is a good indicator of the spiritual and social relationship. This is why in 1 Corinthians 7, Paul says that married couples are to have regular sexual relations—and what is the reason? So that we can multiply? No!

1 Corinthians 7:1-5, “Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.” 2 But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. 3 The husband should give to his wife her conjugal [marital] rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. 4 For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. 5 Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.””

- So the Christian man and Christian woman don’t burn with desire and
- So the Christian man and Christian woman are not tempted by Satan because of their lack of self control.

Let me say that most men and women are called to be married. “It is better to marry than to burn”. God put those desires in most all of us for His sacred purposes.

- Let just say to single people – save yourself for marriage.
- Let me say to married people – give yourself to your spouse whether you feel like it or not. Most married people need to be together at least once a week.

Application: You say, “Pastor why are you dealing with this?” Because this is the one area where Satan destroys singles and married people. Singles give themselves away too soon and married couples get selfish and don’t give because of stress in life. If you don’t deal with as a married couple, it will kill your marriage.

C. Like Amram and Jochebed, we ought to seek a **loving home environment**.
Verse 3a, “When she could hide him no longer...”

The mother did what all mothers want to do and the dad did what all dads want to do. She made an effort to shelter her son. 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.

Application: It is important we shelter and protect our children, but that only lasts a short while. If your child is unconverted, protecting him ultimately will do your child no good. Why? Because they’re worst friend is themselves. Their worst enemy is their own selfish, worldly heart. There is only one thing that will cure that! Salvation in Christ. Mother, is your child safe? Be courageous!

D. 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, and I know why some of you make the decisions you make. You are doing 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. But you can't really do it. 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.

I can imagine that these parents begin to search through their Old Testament scripture. 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 read along, 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 made it out of papyrus. They lined it with loam and they pitched it with pitch 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.

That is exactly what you need to do for your boys and girls. Get them in a church where they will hear about the Lord Jesus Christ. Win them to Christ at an early age.

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. One more time I say to you high school seniors. Are you sure you are in the ark? Have you received Jesus Christ as your Lord and as your Savior? You say, "Preacher, I've got my cap and gown on this morning." It doesn't matter. You say, "I've got friends here. They are going to the reception after the service." That doesn't matter either. If you are in this

building this morning and if you are in this class 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.

Verse 3, “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.”

4 And his sister stood at a distance to know what would be done to him. 5 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. 6 When 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.” 7 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. 10 When the child grew up, 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.”

Behind every great child, there is often an amazing mother. 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.

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.

Yet please do not think that I am 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.

I. It takes courage for mothers (and fathers) to protect their children.

When you come to the last verse of the first chapter, we are told about a deadly decree of the Egyptian Pharaoh.

Exodus 1:21-22, “And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. 22 Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall cast into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live.”

The decree was that every boy child of the Israelites was to be cast into the crocodile-infested Nile River. That was the deadly decree.

Application: We are aware that we are living in a culture which is crocodile-infested, so to speak. It is a culture which is not family friendly. This world will make your children disciples of the wicked one. The Bible tells us that to Amram and Jochebed there was going to be born a child in those very, very difficult times.

Explanation: The time of the birth of a child is intended to be a time of joy and expectation. But I can imagine that it became for them a time of anxiety and fear. What's going to become of this boy who's going to be born? ***The degree is that he must be cast into the Nile River.*** "What will become of our son?"

It is a time when some are very hesitant to even bring children into the world. In fact, I've heard couples say that. I've heard couples say, "We just don't want to bring children into the world. It's just too dangerous to bring children into the world."

I would encourage you not to yield to the terror of the times. There is still a God in heaven who overrules in the affairs of men.

Amram and Jochebed decided to trust God in having children.

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