

Sermon Series: “A Family Album”—Lord of Life Lutheran Church—Westfield, IN—5/11/2003

Title: “Meet the Mother of Moses”

Text: Exodus 1: 8—2: 10

Intro.: *Ills.: Paging through old Family pictures*

Theme: A super-mom is not one who meets all the world’s standards of success and impact but rather one who stands in God and with God as she goes about the task of raising her family.

*A crisis period in history which calls for courageous, faithful mothering*

- Raising up godly homes is not a task for the faint of heart (**Read and print Exod. 1: 8-14**)
  1. The time in which Jochebed, Moses’ mom, lived was one in which the spiritual tide had turned against godly homes
    1. Israelites no longer enjoyed the freedoms and perks of an accepted counter culture
    2. Life was embittered, tortuous, and survival oriented which could have easily taken Israelite parents’ eye of ball
  2. Today’s culture, experienced by Christian families, is openly antagonistic to believing values and virtues
    1. Christianity is no longer valued or tolerated among Christians and their children in school and social arenas
    2. Economic and social pressures put time in a vice leaving little if any time to get quality Christian parenting done
- Such times call for more faith and faithfulness, not less
  3. The temptation in believer’s homes would be “***go along to get along.***”
  4. Spiritually dark times can be when faith in Christ shines the brightest
    1. “*Even in darkness light dawns for the upright, for the gracious and compassionate and righteous person.*” Ps. 112: 4
  5. God wants to add you to the cloud of witnesses of heroes and heroines of faith
    1. *By faith Moses’ parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king’s edict.*” Heb. 11: 23
    2. God-fearing — respect of God not fear of man (*see verses 1:17, 21*)
    3. “*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.*” Heb.12:1

*The home of Moses: a villa of virtue*

- Godly virtue must be taught and caught
  1. Moses learned from a mother who did not just talk about a faith in God but lived it out in front of her child
  2. Today’s mothers must be faithful and fearless in caring out their god-given responsibility
    1. **Ills.:** “*The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.*” Winston Churchill
    2. Not buying into world’s model of a successful woman/mother which is nothing more than crass self-centeredness
    3. Modeling the family of Christ in humbleness, service, self-sacrifice, godliness, faithfulness, perseverance
    4. “*For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*” 2 Peter 1: 5-8
- The spiritual virtue of: ***courageous confidence*** (**Print and read 2: 1-2**)
  3. Moses mother made it her goal to obey God rather than man – defied the Pharaoh’s orders
  4. It is because you represent to your family and to the world the Christ who will never die again but is risen
- The spiritual virtue of: ***resourceful reliance*** (**Print and read 2: 3-4**)
  5. Moses’ mother with great care made a little ark and trusted God to protect from animal, man, and environment
  6. The oxymoron of faith is doing my best and trusting in God to do his
  7. **Ills.:** Job half done

8. He did it in Jesus on the cross and has a proven track record to convince us that he can do it again.

• The spiritual virtue of: ***unconditional surrender*** (**Print and read 2: 5-10**)

9. The hardest thing for Jochebed was to let Moses go to Pharaoh's daughter and trust God's plan (delivering Israel)

10. **Ills.: Times when it is hard to leave**

11. The hardest but most godly thing for a believing mother is to let go of the result of her parenting

12. The mark of a believer is one who is willing to unconditionally surrender her life to the one who will give it back

13. "*Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection.*" Heb. 11: 35

### **Children's Message:**

Leaving behind a godly legacy is a Long, and sometimes Difficult Process. (***Hold up a Helium filled Balloon***) When a child is first born we hold unto them very tightly, protecting their every thought and movement. But, as time goes on, and our child begins to naturally mature, as a healthy parent we must be willing to loosen our grip. Note: (***@ this point I will hold unto the end of a balloon where it is knotted and wave it slightly***). At first our Child is given very little freedom! As parents we stay very close to them. We want to have a strong influence in their lives. We want to protect them. However, Little by little, step by step, year after year, as the child continues to mature and to display more responsibility, it is the healthy parent's responsibility to keep on loosening our grip more and more. Note: (I will slowly let out the string) Eventually their comes a time in every parent's life when we our jobs are complete and we must let go completely of our children and entrust them into God's care!

### **Job half done**

I love the story about the little girl who went to Sunday School. When she came home with her Sunday School papers, she & her mom were leafing through them & they came to a picture of Jesus. Her mother asked, "Do you know who that is?" She said, "Well, I don't know his name, but I do know he goes to our church."...

### **Times when its hard to leave**

In the December 31, 1989 *Chicago Tribune*, the editors printed their photos of the decade. One of them, by Michael Fryer, captured a grim fireman and paramedic carrying a fire victim away from the scene. The blaze, which happened in Chicago in December 1984, at first seemed routine. But then firefighters discovered the bodies of a mother and five children huddled in the kitchen of an apartment. Fryer said the firefighters surmised, "She could have escaped with two or three of the children but couldn't decide who to pick. She chose to wait with all of them for the firefighters to arrive. All of them died of smoke inhalation." There are times when you just don't leave those you love. **Citation: William R. Exell, Naperville, Illinois. Leadership, Vol. 12, no. 4.**

## Exodus 1:8-22

<sup>8</sup>Then a new king, who did not know about Joseph, came to power in Egypt. <sup>9</sup>"Look," he said to his people, "the Israelites have become much too numerous for us. <sup>10</sup>Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country." <sup>11</sup>So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh.

<sup>12</sup>But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites <sup>13</sup>and worked them ruthlessly. <sup>14</sup>They made their lives bitter with hard labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their hard labor the Egyptians used them ruthlessly. <sup>15</sup>The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, <sup>16</sup>"When you help the Hebrew women in childbirth and observe them on the delivery stool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live." <sup>17</sup>The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live. <sup>18</sup>Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, "Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?" <sup>19</sup>The midwives answered Pharaoh, "Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive." <sup>20</sup>So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous. <sup>21</sup>And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own.

<sup>22</sup>Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: "Every boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live."

<sup>2:1</sup>Now a man of the house of Levi married a Levite woman (*Jochebed*), <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. <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. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. <sup>4</sup>His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. <sup>5</sup>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. <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. <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?" <sup>8</sup>"Yes, go," she answered. And the girl went and got the baby's mother. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."