

**Serm. Series: “Moses–God’s Poster Child of Meekness and Dedication”–Lord of Life, Westfield, IN – 5/9/2010**

**Title: “Born after Midnight”**

**Text: Exodus 2: 1-10**

**Theme:** By faith in God’s commitment to us, we step out in acts of faithfulness in our conviction and action so that we might witness to the power of God at work within us and through us.

### ***Desperate times demand deliberate measures (of faith)***

Too often, we allow ourselves to become “*desperate*” and approach God as a magic rabbit’s foot

1. Many times we irrationally react out of fear in the desperate times and sin in our thoughts and words and actions
2. Then, we take a *bless this mess* approach to God in our prayer life – frantically praying for him his deliverance

The balance of faith and planning in our lives

1. Moses’ mother trusted Adonai with things she could not control, but planned for the things she could
2. God calls us to have courageous faith, not reckless faith
  - a. Reckless faith is presumption upon the graces of God (*"It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Matthew 4: 7*)
  - b. Wisdom doesn’t contradict faith – it complements it (*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Philippians 4: 6*)

### ***A new home, a new name, and a new way of looking at life***

Letting go of the old, headed for destruction, so that God can give you the new, leading toward life

1. Moses’ mom, Jochebed, had to defy all her maternal instincts to trust in God’s deliverance
  - a. Knowing that Egypt’s princess would arrive and that God could bring mercy to overcome prejudice
  - b. Trusting God would protect Moses from immediate river predators and long term predators in Pharaoh’s house
2. What is the non-negotiable in your life, right now (kids, career, possession, health)?
  - a. Whatever you have set as the “line in the sand”– Satan will take you up to that line in terms of temptation
  - b. Are you willing to trust God with carefully holding that precious thing or person if you let it go?

In Moses’ story is a symbol of how God has “*drawn us out of*”

1. It is not coincidental that water—a new name — and a new life are connected in God’s story in Moses’ life
  - a. *She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water." vs. 10*
  - b. God also connects the water of Noah’s story to salvation
2. In your baptism God gave you a new name, a new home, and a new life
  - a. *For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. Galatians 3:27*
  - b. *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 2 Corinthians. 5:17*
  - c. *Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name. Revelations 3: 12*
3. How is God drawing you out in the world, not to blend in, but for a purposeful existence to glorify Him?
  - a. For Moses, growing up in an overtly pagan home/culture, required a daily discipline of godliness to be practiced and honed
  - b. *You were chosen to tell about the excellent qualities of God, who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 1 Peter 2: 9*
  - c. What are you doing in your life and that of the lives of your family members to live out that calling in an increasing secular/pagan world and to be that light to it?

### Excerpt from "Born after Midnight" by Charles Swidol

Taken from "Moses: The Man of Selfless Dedication" guide coauthored by Jason Shepherd: Copyright ©1998 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc.

#### Poor Decision Making Process

Most of us could identify with Neil Melly's frustration. Air travel often involves delays, denials, and desperate circumstances. Melly was in Los Angeles International Airport, attempting to get to Australia. Problems developed when Melly was unable to purchase a ticket because he lacked a valid credit card. Most of us might slink away in embarrassment. A flight from LAX to the other side of the world is not small change, and without a credit card, most of us would just go home. Neil Melly isn't most of us. He ignored that little humiliation and went on to shatter the shame barrier. Hours later, Melly angrily stripped off all his clothes and returned to make a dash for the airport runway. Baggage handlers watched as Melly scaled a fence topped with three strands of barbed wire, fearlessly and without injury. Then Neil sprinted across the tarmac toward a jumbo jet and crawled inside the wheel well. Most of us might have simply been trying to hide, but Neil Melly picked a plane that was on the move—an Australian plane. The dangers were great. As airport spokeswoman Nancy Castles pointed out, "He could have been sucked up by an engine," or crushed when the landing gear was retracted. "And if not he very likely would have frozen to death during the 15 1/2 hour flight at 30,000 feet while wearing no clothes." Pilots stopped the plane, and Melly was coaxed from his hiding place and arrested. The official charge was trespassing. Apparently there's no law against poor problem solving, anger mismanagement, or being the butt of jokes. **John Beukema, Western Springs, Illinois; source: "Naked Man Climbs Onto Moving Jet," Yahoo.com (11-04-04)**

#### Baby Thrown from Burning Building

One of the most difficult realities faced by most parents is the gradual "letting go" of their children—releasing the little ones from their protection and watching them make their own way in the world. For Tracinda Foxe, however, that "letting go" came much too early in her baby's life, and was much too literal. In December of 2005, Foxe's apartment building in the Bronx caught on fire. With flames quickly engulfing her third floor bedroom, she was forced to contemplate the unthinkable. Outside, a group of onlookers had gathered some 30 feet below her open window, and they watched with growing concern as smoke billowed around the mother and her 1-month-old child. With no fresh air in the apartment, Tracinda leaned out the window with her baby. Finally, with all other options exhausted, Tracinda let go. The infant tumbled three stories down into the waiting arms of Felix Vazquez, a Housing Authority employee and catcher on a local baseball team. A former lifeguard, Vazquez performed mouth-to-mouth resuscitation on the baby until paramedics arrived, which saved its life. Moments later, Tracinda was rescued from her apartment by firefighters, and was reunited with her child. Neither was seriously injured. Asked later about the painful decision to drop her baby from the window, Tracinda said: "I prayed that someone would catch him and save his life.... I said, 'God, please save my son.'" **Catherine Donaldson-Evans, "The Good News of 2005," Foxnews.com (12-30-05)**

#### Exodus 2:1-10

<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. <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." [NIV]

#### Isaiah 58:1-4

Cry aloud! Don't hold back! Raise your voice like a ram's horn. Tell my people about their rebellion and the descendants of Jacob about their sins. They look for me every day and want to know my ways. They act as if they were a nation that has done what is right and as if they haven't disregarded God's judgment on them. They ask me for just decrees. They want God to be near them. Why have we fasted if you are not aware of it? Why have we inflicted pain on ourselves if you don't pay attention? Don't you see that on the days you fast, you do what you want to do? You mistreat all your workers. Don't you see that when you fast, you quarrel and fight and beat your workers? The way you fast today keeps you from being heard in heaven.

#### Hebrews 11:24-26

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

#### 1 Peter 3:20-21

Long ago God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also--not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.