

## **A MOTHER IN TROUBLED TIMES**

**Exodus 1.22-2.10**

**This is one of my favorite Mother's day stories.  
The children fixed a wonderful meal for mom.  
Naturally they really made a mess.  
One of the girls noticed that and said, "Mom, don't worry about the mess.  
You don't have to do the dishes or clean up, today. It's Mother's day.  
You can wait until tomorrow.**

**That's the way it goes-right moms.  
Oh, how we take moms for granted.**

**After the first mother's day in Geddes,  
Lucille Haney came into my office one day and said,  
"I hate mother's day. It is a miserable day for me. I just hate to go to church."**

**I was surprised, actually shocked when she said that.**

**Here was this grand, gracious, and generous 84-year woman who loved teaching.  
She had taught high school students something about home economics and  
something about life for umpteen years.**

**I stumbled and mumbled some, "ya but and finally asked, Why?  
She said because she couldn't be a mother.  
This woman of faith could accept the fact she couldn't be a mother  
but with all the Mother's Day hype, she couldn't celebrate the day.**

**You know when you stop to think about it, Mother's Day can be one of the most  
difficult and ambivalent days we have in our culture or even the life of the church.**

**We certainly want to celebrate the gift of our mothers and motherhood itself.  
We want to exhort and encourage and yet, end up drawing out guilt and grief.**

**Think about it. There are all kinds of scenarios.  
Some mothers won't get calls, cards, or candy, or flowers, gifts, or dinner out.  
Some mothers have loved with best of love and their children still messed up.  
Some mothers have children that have died.  
Some mothers don't have spouses, or they have "no good spouses."  
Some mothers were not good mothers and may feel shame or guilt about that.**

**Some children grieve the loss of their mothers.  
Some children grieve the loss of a caring, supporting, nurturing mother.  
Some children grieve loss opportunities to love because they  
were ornery and obnoxious, rebellious and disrespectful children.**

**Today, know the church will continue to affirm and celebrate the God given calling and ministry of motherhood but know we're here to help heal and reconcile as well, especially in these troubled times.**

**Let's see what we learn from Jochebed, mother of Miriam, Aaron, and Moses. Her name by the way implies "the glory of Jehovah". And mothers are about expressing "the glory of Jehovah," aren't they?**

**A little girl was in the play and had the line, "I am the light of the world." She practiced and practiced but when the time came for her line, she froze. Her mom sitting in the front row, mouthed the words, "I am the light of the world." Finally trusting the circumstances, herself, and her mom, she spoke, "My mother is the light of the world."**

**Isn't that good. There is the expectation that mothers bring light into our world.**

**Speaking of troubled times,  
Exodus 1.22 "Then the Pharaoh gave this order to all his people,  
*'Every boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live.'*"**

**We know the Israelite people grew in number while in Egypt. They started as free people but then they got a new Pharaoh, and a new position in Egyptian society. They became SLAVES. So that they didn't outnumber the Egyptians Pharaoh made them work longer and work harder.**

**That boomeranged. The Hebrews grew in number. So Pharaoh went to plan B, kill the boys by tossing them to the crocodiles and marry the girls into Egyptian families.**

**This was the common Egyptian practice of child sacrifice to their Gods.**

**Troublesome times, that is an understatement, isn't it?  
Jochebed worried and wonder about Moses.**

**And don't we worry and wonder about our children and what is going to happen.**

**We do have so many things good things at our disposal.  
Things to make life more comfortable, convenient, and content.  
Things to free us, to make life more fun and enjoyable.  
And things to make us smarter and healthier.**

**Yet, the paradox is that we seem to have more struggles and less contentment; more frustration and less freedom, more toys and less time and trust.**

**We thank God some families have grandparents that help out.  
It's tough to find enough time and enough money to raise our kids.  
We are just too busy, busy, busy.**

**We are trying to “*train up our children in the way that they should go.*”  
We're trying to teach godly values.  
We try to have a little fun once and awhile, and keep food on the table.  
The trouble is it's difficult to get the whole family to the table together.**

**Then there are those challenging if not haunting questions;  
How much is enough? For college? For an illness? To get ahead?**

**And we wonder what is going on in our kid's heads? What is going on in school?  
On the playground? What are my kids listening to? Watching on TV?  
Or playing on play station? And whom are they chatting with in chat rooms.**

**And how do I talk to them about war? Terrorism? Drugs? Alcohol? Sex? Aids?  
Abortion? Homosexuality? Faith in troubled times?  
Here in Aberdeen we have some children becoming anxious if it rains.  
So how do we talk about floods and natural disasters?**

**Do I tell them what to wear? And what to eat? Who their friends are?  
What their values are? What rules do we set up?**

**Just how much do I intervene in my children's lives or would is it interfering?**

**Adding to that there is an attack on the authority of parents in our country.  
There is even a wave of thought and some legislation  
Restricting parental responsibility and authority.**

**Here is one answer.**

**At a school social function Pastor/Professor Tony Complot's wife was asked in a very  
condescending way what she did for a living.**

**She said, “I am socializing two Homo sapiens in the dominant values of the  
Judeo-Christian tradition in order that they might be instruments for the transformation  
of the social order into the teleological prescribed utopia inherent in the escheating.”**

**Translation, “I'm raising two children to become Christians  
So that they might be prepared for the coming kingdom.”  
Parenting is a full time job.**

**It seems our children, like those Hebrew boys are being  
Tossed into the Nile to fight the crocodiles of contemporary currents and customs.  
They're tossed into the Nile of life, sacrificed to the world's philosophies and values.**

At a critical time in French history Napoleon was asked, "What does France need most?"  
He said, "MOTHERS!"

We could ask that same question. We're living in troubled times,  
We're overwhelmed and desperate, the answer-GODLY MOTHERS.

**1-We needs MOTHER'S WHO SEE PROMISE IN THEIR CHILDREN**

2.1 *"Now a man of the house of Levi married a Levite woman.*

*And she became pregnant and gave birth to a son.*

2.2 *When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months."*

Other translations of fine say that, "*he was a special child.*"  
*"He was beautiful child;" "he was an unusually beautiful child."*

Acts 7.20 and Hebrews 11.23, "*Moses was no ordinary child, and they saw his beauty.*"

Do you find that so surprising?  
Mother's always think their babies are the most beautiful, don't they.  
And you know what? They are.

There is that old story of the forty years man who finally broke down and bought a computer.  
He wrote mom a well-written, crafted and creative letter with graphics.  
He called her a couple of days later and asked how she liked it.  
She said, "'it's lovely. I hung it on my refrigerator."

We're always our mother's children.

Secondly, in troubled times, **WE NEED MOTHERS THAT PROTECT THEIR CHILDREN.**

There is a wonderful imaged of protection; In Luke 13.34, Jesus says,  
*"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I  
have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings."*

God passes on that responsibility to parents.

We find this in our text today, back to Exodus 2.3

*"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."*

Jockeyed obvious feared for her son's life and took drastic measure to protect him.

She made the basket to protect Moses in the water and protect him from the crocks.  
The tar or mud would hold the basket together and make it softer.  
The pitch would make it watertight.  
And the basket was set in the reeds so that it didn't float downstream.

**We need to set our children in the sanctuary and safety of the basket of Jesus Christ. They need to be pitched with Bible stories and knowledge. Psalms 119.11, “Your words I have hidden in my heart that I might not sin against you.”**

**And they need to be set in the reeds of life to be guided by the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 1.17, “I am praying that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, May give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him.”**

**The Ron Luce has written a book, Battle Cry for a Generation, The “Fight to “Save America’s Youth. Pastor Don will give you a copy of this book.**

**The book is a wake up call and a call to arms for mothers and fathers, about the need To protect our children from the contemporary crocodiles of techno and virtual terrorist.**

**Pastor Don elaborated on those things in a sermon a couple of weeks ago. He asked if we knew what our children are watching and hearing on TV, Internet, and through their ipods. He encouraged us as parents to monitor what our children watch and listen too.**

**It might seem like meddling or even some type of discipline.**

**Discipline...I remember when my mom would not allowed us to step off the curb into street with out permission. To do so was to invite immediate and painful consequences. Well this was for the first three of us.**

**My mom had six kids. While we first three couldn’t step in the street, the second three owned the street. They could run, jump, play, crawl, or even lay down in the street if they wanted to.**

**We the first three often speak of this great injustice. Yet no amount of moaning and groaning, whining and whimpering receives any sympathy or support from the second three.**

**More importantly we failed to see this discipline as a way my mother tried to protect us.**

**I remember too when as a teenager my mom sat me down one day and simply said, I’m concerned about this music you are listening to.**

**I was listening to stuff like Chicago, Moody Blues, Simon and Garfunkle, 60’s stuff. She said, “You are usually pretty happy boy but haven’t been lately. I’m wondering about this music you are listening too. It’s really depressing to me.” Hey, I knew she was right but you’d better believe I didn’t let her know.**

**But she did the right thing. Today we have commercials on TV that tell us to talk to our kids about these things.**

**I've seen this commercial where these three thugs are sitting/standing in a family's living room. A mother comes in and says I've canceled you, shut you off, you are done here. We've talked about you bringing this violence in my home before.**

**The stunned "tough guy" looks puzzled and then attempts, as it seems he has before, he attempts to buy her off. She refuses, shuts him down.**

**Have you notice commercials encouraging parents encouraging them to talk to their kids about drugs and alcohol, about their where-abouts and even sexual behavior.**

**All are attempting to make parents aware of their responsibility and their power.**

**And third, these verses tell us that  
WE NEED MOTHERS TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR CHILDREN.**

**I know that seems simple enough.**

**Check out the creative way that Jochobed provided for Moses.**

**Not only was her reward in heaven but, she got paid here on earth for it.**

**Verse 4, *"His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.***

**Then we know Pharoah's daughter discovered the baby Moses,  
And discovered she need a nursemaid for him.**

**Miriam was right there and suggested Jochobed.**

**Verse 9a, *"So the woman took the baby and nursed him and when the child grew older she took him to Pharoah's daughter and he became her son."***

**Wow, one of the painful ways a mother provides is sometimes letting go.**

**My heart goes out to the single mothers in our troubled times.**

**They must work, putting food on the table, provide a roof over their children's heads and cloths on their backs, as well as to be responsible for taking care of the social, emotional, educational, and spiritual needs of their children.**

**I want to encourage you to talk about faith and your faith with your children.**

**It will make it more real for them. And pray with them.**

**If you're not already, take a minute to read a Bible story to your children before you tuck them in and close the day with prayer.**

**Mothers in our troubled times...trust in the Lord.**

**And may you continue to reveal the glory of God**

**Let us pray now.**

