

IN IT FOR THE



LONG HAUL

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THIS IS ANOTHER MESSAGE
in the
"Printed Pulpit Ministry"
of the
WEST END BAPTIST CHURCH
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"IN IT FOR THE LOOONNNNNNGGGGGGG HAUL"

There are many events that have directed, redirected, or changed the course of human history. When we think about that, we think of wars, conflicts, national leaders, people of renown, and those that direct the course of nations. However, there could have been no change in the direction of human events greater than the one to which I have been led this morning.

There was a mother whose name was not well known. Let's just call her Josie. She never made the local news cycle; didn't hold membership in any prestigious organizations; and, as far as we know, she wasn't listed in any projects, campaigns, crusades, movements, operations, drives, or promotions.

Her husband was an unassuming citizen; and served on the staff of the local community congregation; and both of them apparently took odd jobs whenever they could get them; and were trusting God to help them get by financially. They had one child - a daughter whose name was Mary who helped out around the house as much as she could.

When their second child was born - a boy, they all had mixed emotions because of the political situation in the nation where they lived. The government leaders were totally corrupt; and had passed a law which concerned all baby boys. In fact, that law contained language that went something like this: "When the obstetrical department of the medical center delivers a baby, if it's a boy, that child's life is to be ended. Until further notice, no male babies are to be allowed to live and grow up here".

Remember, "life to be ended" can only mean KILLED!

Imagine if we lived in such a time when life was so cheap that when a male child was born, he would be killed at the hospital. That's hard to imagine, but that's the setting in this true situation. That was the law of the land. Male infants' lives were to be taken; or, in other words, they were to be killed; and in this situation which was several hundred years ago, the sex of the baby was not known until they were born.

We are living in a time when the devil has launched an all-out attack to ruin and destroy our children, both male and female. I won't go into details, but when you have to pass laws to protect kindergarten children from drag Queens coming into their classroom and putting on a drag show in the kindergarten class, the devil is out to get our children!

By the way, if you are thinking of Mary and Joseph and Jesus; you are (as we say) in the right church; but in the wrong pew. The mother's name, Josie, was actually Jochebed.

Her son, Moses, was the one who would help in fulfilling God's will that the greatest nation on earth, the one that would bless all nations, Israel, would become a reality.

The Hebrew people were slaves in the land of Egypt, but they were multiplying and growing fast. Pharaoh feared an army of the Hebrew men would form and rise up to overthrow the Egyptians; so he called the Hebrew midwives in and pronounced the death sentence on the male babies.

It is quite obvious why Jochebed did what she did. You can imagine the concern she had. You can imagine every time

someone approached where they lived, you would have an apprehension and anxiety wondering what would happen. The Bible says that she hid the child for three months.

She made a basket, sealed it so that it would float, put the baby in it; then set it out on the Nile River. It wasn't an act of fear, but an act of faith; but as assurance, Mary (Miriam) was going along watching the basket. You know the Scripture - that Pharaoh's daughter found the basket and the baby; and knew full well it violated the order given by her father.

The "God Factor" kicked in and Miriam brings her own mother - and that of Moses - to be his "nanny". As the narrative progresses, you can see that obviously the daughter of Pharaoh doesn't know who either Miriam or Jochebed were; but she told

the mother of Moses, "take him and nurse him for me, and I'll pay you wages".

One preacher said: "Moses got a Christian education on an Egyptian school voucher". He was home-schooled with his own mother; but for how long?

The Book of Exodus says that Moses became the son of Pharaoh's daughter, so there was some type of legal - and probably royal - adoption process in which that was accomplished. It would seem that his mother took care of him until he was 12 years old; and then gave him to Pharaoh's daughter as a "responsible young man".

(Acts 7:22) - Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds.

He did not learn that knowledge in Josie's home school; but you can see the

Providence of God working in this child to give him, not only a Christian/Hebrew education, but then to train him in all the ways of the Egyptians. God knows what he's going to do; and what he's going to have to know.

God help us to have faith to do what we're supposed to do and trust in the providence of an Almighty God. He would have been schooled as if he would someday become the ruler of Egypt, the most powerful country in the world at that time.

This would have given him many skills that God would some day use in leading His People OUT of Egypt, headed for the "Promised Land".

This was 28 cumulative years of training, because when he was 40; Moses saw an Egyptian mistreating one of the Hebrew slaves, and he killed the Egyptian. As a

result, Moses had to flee to Midian and remained there for another 40 years = 80 years.

His mother had trained him to love The Creator. She trained him as a Hebrew in a modest to poor home; then the Egyptian Princess trained him as an Egyptian in a sumptuous palace. Both places were rejoicing over him - for different reasons in different ways!

Moses' father and mother (both unnamed until later in Scriptures) were both devoted people of God. They were of the Tribe of Levi, who were the priests and servants of God. They had faith in the Power of God.

If they could have faith in the power of God while they were slaves, certainly America could have faith in the midst of the freedoms that we still have, although

our nation is in dire need of revival. Too many Christians are giving up because we don't see hope in one another.

But, hey, our hope never has been one in one another. Our hope has always been in God. Do we have to lose everything in America before we put our hope back in God? These folks had nothing but hope in God. And that's all they needed to raise this boy in the in the nurture and admonition of The Lord.

What's wrong with trusting God when we are on top; when things are going well? God can get our attention at any time; but why do we feel we have to wait for that to happen?

They had faith in the Person and the Power of God; but Faith in the "God Factor" is not just for what God will do for us today, but faith is in the processes of God and the

providences of God for what he will do in the future.

Too many people give up on God because they don't get rewarded immediately in a week or two weeks' time or maybe three.

This woman had twelve years to raise this boy in the admonition and fear of The Lord, but he would spend the next twenty-eight years being trained as an Egyptian to learn their languages, to learn their ways, to possibly prepare to become a Pharaoh or lower level leader himself.

I have seen the art and the culture of Egypt; and it is filthy and Godless; but that is what Moses was exposed to every day!

The Bible says that he came to the place where he "refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing to

suffer affliction with the people of God, rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season”.

Rather than the wealth and power and prestige of leadership in Egypt, he chose the Will of God. Why? Because he had parents who taught him how to have faith in God.

These parents are not waiting to be rewarded in a week or a month. They are not talking about being rewarded next Friday; and not even next year. They spend twelve years training him and then give him over to God's plan for his future. They are “In it for the Long Haul”!

I want parents to understand that the training of our children is not just for the immediate rewards, but for the “long haul future” and the difference they will make for the Cause of Christ.

We are not raising our children for ourselves, we are raising them for the Will of God. It may not be this week or next week; but in the future, it will be amazing to see what God will do when we put the right things and especially God's Word into the hearts of our children.

You know what we always say: "It's just a matter of time".

I thank God that my parents not only taught me the Word of God; brought me to Sunday School, then went to their own classes; made me behave in church; and sacrificed to help me after I was called to ministry. They bought me whole sets of books; seminar classes; Bible Camps and Conferences; and study materials. Anita always considered desks, proper lighting, clothes, and TIME (vacations, etc).

Thank God for Godly mothers. I challenge you young ladies to be Godly mothers; and you young men to be Godly dads. Be an example of Faith in God.

Abraham Lincoln said, "no man is poor who has had a Godly mother".

You may be here as an adult man or a woman and you have strayed away from what your mother taught you and what your father taught you - or maybe they didn't; and you need to start that stream of following God yourself. You may not be in the Will of God. You might be here in church today because you simply love your mother and you want to honor her.

The greatest way you can honor your Godly mother is to live in the good ways that she taught you. It's not just the families' ways or the old fashioned ways that

count. It's the Bible way - God's Way - that makes a difference.

The Bible says that the Princess paid Jochebed a wage to care for little Moses. But the "wage" of a coin could not begin to compare to the "wage" of a blessing that she received in having a son that was called of God to lead the people out of slavery and toward deliverance.

She progressed from fear to freedom and from poverty to prosperity; and she got to raise the one that became one of the greatest leaders of all the Bible; giving us the Law, and The Books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

That was the real wage that she received. The greatest wage a mother can receive is for her children to walk in truth and do right.

Don't miss the point. All that Moses became was begun way back there when he was born; and God worked it out so that his Godly parents could teach him to have faith - the kind of faith that he saw in his parents.

I think we can all agree that his Faith really came in handy when he became a fugitive "running from the law" in the wicked land of Midian because, in a moment of weakness, he killed an Egyptian. We might even agree that he was "justified" in what he did!

At any rate, with all that training as a Hebrew man and an Egyptian prince, he's down there in that desert and will be there for forty years practicing his leadership skills on his father-in-law's sheep.

Wait a minute; Moses had seen it all; at least he thought so; but he saw a bush

that had burst into flames. Actually, there wasn't anything unusual about that; because the silica in the sand under the bright sun causes the vegetation to spontaneously combust practically all the time!

But, this one was different; it just kept on burning; and didn't burn up!

Moses turned aside to see this amazing sight; and he heard a voice speaking to him: "Moses, take your shoes off. You're standing on holy ground".

Remember his early training in a Godly home. That was not the first time he heard about God; but what a reminder that was! What an awakening it was that took him back to the days when he was a boy, back to his childhood when he heard his sister telling him what happened.

If you're here today and there's been a Faith in God born in your heart and mind because of a parent who took you to church and taught you the Word of God and taught you how to pray; you are most blessed!

The obedience and rearing of your children is not just for the immediate present, but the coming days, for the future, for the plan that God has to use them for His glory.

In short; we are to be "in it for the long haul"! We need some Hannahs to raise some Samuels; some Elizabeths to raise some Johns; ; some Eunices to raise some Timothys; and some Jochebeds to raise some Moseses!

And we need those kids to follow God as they are taught!



PROMOTED and PRESENTED by:

The West End Baptist Church

Location: 116 West End Street

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Newport, TN 37822

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PRODUCED and PRINTED by:

Newport Printing and Office Supply

315 East Broadway

Newport, TN 37821

(423) 623-3651

www.printing4newport.com