



Light from the Word

Faith of Moses' Parents

“By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months by his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.”¹

It is said that every day, an average adult makes around 35,000 conscious decisions. Each of these decisions carry with them downstream consequences that are often unknown but are later revealed. While each decision may not hold the same level of seriousness, the Bible teaches us principles around spiritual discernment. This is especially relevant as God calls us to be either “earthly or spiritual parents” in our decisions today that have an unknown or even un contemplated future. The account of Moses' parents in Exodus 2 provides an experience to learn from.

We read in Exodus 2:1-4, *“And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took to wife a daughter of Levi. And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months. And when she could not longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid it in the flags by the river's brink. And his sister stood afar off,*

to wit what would be done to him.”

In the first two verses, we read that Amram and Jochabed, the father and mother of Moses, obeyed God's commandments. We observe that Amram took an Israelite wife, consistent with God's teachings. Next, we see they desired to *“be fruitful and multiply”*. Neither of these decisions would have been easy to make. First, many men of Israel were not satisfied with the women of Israel and looked “outside” for their wives – this often led to their downfall, or at least additional persecution in their lives. Second, they were aware that Pharaoh had issued a decree, *“...Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river, and every daughter ye shall save alive.”²* Their willingness to *“obey God, rather than men,”³* was vital as they placed their trust in the *“rock that is higher than I.”⁴*

Do our daily decisions reflect God's teachings? Do we realize that each decision we make today demonstrates our submissiveness to His will versus our own? Do we realize that our individual decisions make up our “manner of conversation”, reveal our character, and show to the world that we are His? We can often be tempted to delay critical spiritual decisions or think that “sometime in the future” we will be more focused on doing His

will. But God asks those who follow Him to *“deny himself, and take up his cross daily”⁵*. When we do what we know to be the will of God today, we will gain the understanding for tomorrow⁶. Let's consider the instruction to bring *“into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ,”⁷* demonstrating a foundational trust in His commandments and will, not ours.

We next read of spiritual discernment, *“...and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months.”* There was something about Moses that God put in his mother's heart to know that he was special. It appears that this was more than just a mother's love for her son, but rather a God-created “goodness” that was evident to her “eye of faith”. This spiritual understanding was a result of a consistent and abiding trust in God, allowing them spiritual vision into God's perfect plan. Paul reminds Timothy and us to *“... exercise thyself rather unto godliness.”⁸*

As we continue the account, we read *“... she hid him three months. And when she could not longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid it in the flags by the river's brink.”* The faith that they had in God and

Continued Articles

The Faith of Moses' Parents (Continued)

their discernment that Moses was “good” would have all come to naught, if they hadn’t done their “reasonable service.” As Jochabed knew that God had a special plan for Moses, she hid him, even though there was the decree from Pharaoh. She had to take the needed steps to protect Moses from this evil decree. Living in faith isn’t always the easiest step and there may be serious repercussions, but in faith, we are called to do that which is right.

How long was she willing to risk the repercussions? Until “..she could not longer hide him”. One of the key truths we find in God’s Word is that God never asks us to do more than we are able. That is our reasonable service to Him. He is always there to help us and provides us grace and strength to persevere, He just asks us to trust in Him.

As parents, Deuteronomy 6:8 reminds us, “... and thou shalt teach them (God’s commandments) diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest

in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.” The commandments of God are different than the message of the world and can at times put stress on the parent-child relationship. We are instructed to do our part⁹ and remember that God both watches over and will never leave us. There are certainly times when we aren’t sure what to say or what to do but we are promised that “*the Holy Spirit will teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say.*”¹⁰ Sometimes we just need to be there and listen to our children. Sometimes we need to help them (and us) quiet the “noise” (advice from the world or others) that is so prevalent today, so that we can hear the Holy Spirit’s counsel.

The last principle from the account is about trust. They came to a point where “...*she took for him an ark ...and put the child therein; and she laid it in the flags by the river’s brink...*”¹¹ We see that even when they did their part, the final outcome wasn’t known. They waited in faith. And what a wonderful and miraculous continuation to the story we

read in Exodus as Moses went from Pharaoh’s house to lead God’s people out of Egypt to the promised land.

As parents, we might worry about the unknowns of the future. God reminds us that we should replace fear with faith – an active faith that is evident to those He places in our lives, whether earthly or spiritual children. A love that is demonstrated by our actions, daily trusting in God’s will above ours to such an extent that our love for them is as Christ’s, willing to teach and exhort them to the more excellent way. Faith that is not swayed by the doctrines of this world, but willing to share God’s truth in love, so that seeds are planted and watered in their lives, doing our reasonable service.

Endnotes:

¹ Hebrews 11:23

² Exodus 1:22

³ Acts 5:29

⁴ Ps 61:2

⁵ Luke 9:23

⁶ 2 Tim 2:7

⁷ 2 Cor 10:5

⁸ 1 Timothy 4:7

⁹ 1 Cor 3:7

¹⁰ Luke 12:12

¹¹ Exodus 2:3