

A GREAT EXAMPLE OF MOTHERHOOD

(Hebrews 11:23-27)

I. She obeyed God and not man.

- a. We know that the Hebrews had become slaves in Egypt when Jochebed was living.
 - i. Pharaoh had commanded that all the Hebrews be forced to work for Egypt.
 - ii. Still, the number of the Hebrews continued to multiply until they seemed to outnumber the Egyptians.
 - iii. This caused Pharaoh to tell the Hebrew midwives to kill any males that were born.
 - iv. We know they refused to do so.
 - v. Pharaoh then gave the command that all male children must be put to death by the parents (Exodus 1:22).
- b. Amram and Jochebed already had one son and one daughter born to them.
 - i. When we get into Exodus 2, we see that another son was born and they named him Moses.
 - ii. Moses was born after the command by Pharaoh to put all male children to death.
- c. Jochebed refused to obey a sinful command of man.
- d. She knew that life was precious and this, incredibly sadly, is not seen in many mothers today.
 - i. In 2016, there were over 800,000 abortions performed in the US.
 - ii. There has been a slow decline in the numbers over the last 15 years but that is still nearly 1 million babies aborted in one year.
 - iii. God knew Jeremiah in the womb (Jeremiah 1:5) as He does all babies.
 - iv. What a vile and wicked sin it is to murder a child in the womb and it happens hundreds of times per day.
- e. Jochebed was going to be obedient to God above all else.
- f. We need more parents who put the will of God above all else.
- g. Her desire to do right put her own life in jeopardy.
- h. Long ago, the apostles said that they ought to obey God rather than man, but Jochebed modeled this long before this brave statement.
- i. Hebrews 11:23 says that the parents of Moses were not afraid.
 - i. There is no reason to fear when we are doing right.
 - ii. Even if our lives are taken from us, we win.
- j. Jochebed set the example for her children that she was going to obey God over the most powerful man on the face of the earth at that time.

II. She saw the potential in her child.

- a. Hebrews 11:23 says that she saw he was a proper child.

- i. Acts 7:20 described Moses as exceeding fair.
 - ii. Exodus 2:2 says he was a goodly child.
- b. We've all heard of the saying "he has a face only a mother could love".
- c. When Jochebed saw her child, she saw something that was beautiful.
- d. She did not see someone that would amount to nothing.
 - i. I've heard parents talk to their children in ways that are awful.
 - ii. I don't believe in blowing smoke to your children, but they need to know how much potential they have and not be denigrated by parents.
- e. Jochebed wanted her son to have a chance in life so she did what she could for him to make sure he had the chance.
 - i. She knew his life was in jeopardy if he stayed with her.
 - ii. Jochebed devised a plan to help her son succeed in life.
 - iii. (Tell of her plan).
- f. Children are to be viewed as gifts from God and not burdens.
 - i. The Psalmist described them this way.
 - ii. Psalm 127.
- g. Each child has great potential and they need direction to reach that potential.
 - i. We need godly parents who see that potential in their children and then help them reach it.
 - ii. I don't mean just potential to be successful in life, but the potential to be great instruments for God.
 - iii. Children need help seeing what they can do and be for God and it is up to us as parents to give them that vision.
- h. If they see us falling in with the will of man and not the will of God, they will never have that vision because our examples will blind them to it.

III. She taught her son about God.

- a. The plan Jochebed devised allowed Moses to grow up in the household of Pharaoh but to be taught by her.
- b. When the daughter of Pharaoh found Moses, Miriam was there and asked her if she wanted one of the Hebrew women to come nurse the child.
 - i. The daughter of Pharaoh said yes.
 - ii. Miriam went and got Jochebed.
- c. We don't know how things went exactly, but we know Hebrews 11:24 tells us that Moses grew up to refuse to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter.
 - i. Jochebed must have taught Moses who he was and who Jehovah was.
 - ii. How else would he have known to refuse being an Egyptian?
- d. She instilled a belief in God in her son.
 - i. We desperately need mothers who will do this.
 - ii. There is a growth of agnosticism and atheism in our nation.
 - iii. Our children need parents who teach there is a God and model their own belief in God.

- e. Fathers are commanded to bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.
 - i. Mothers have to help in this.
 - ii. Fathers take the lead as the head of the house but mothers spend more time with the children in most cases.
- f. We have to have parents involved in bringing their children to an understanding of God and His will for them.
- g. Jochebed did this for Moses in a much more hostile environment than exists today.
- h. We are really without excuse if we fail.

IV. She encouraged her son to look ahead.

- a. Many times we don't see past the nose on our face.
- b. This was not the view of Moses (Hebrews 11:25-27).
- c. He obtained that view from the teaching done by his mother.
- d. There really is no other explanation.
- e. Our children need to understand that heaven awaits.
 - i. There are riches far greater than any earthly wealth waiting on them.
 - ii. Heaven is far greater than what earth offers.
- f. The church sign at East Walker says "Heaven, don't miss it for the world".
- g. How many of our children are on the path to missing it because they are not being taught to look at the long term and not the short term?
- h. As parents, it is our job to instill in them a desire for heaven above all else.
- i. Again, this is something they have to see modeled in us.
- j. Jochebed wanted her son to be right with God and she modeled that for him and taught him to view things in that regard.

From a sermon outline by Roger Campbell