

WHAT MOSES LEARNED AT HOME

Exodus 1-2:10 Acts 7:17-25

We live in a world which is becoming increasingly hostile to our faith.

More tolerance is expressed for people committing violent crime, than for people promoting faith in Christ.

The “rights of the oppressed” are claimed for criminals, but not for Christians—even in countries where Christians are *dying* for their faith!

“Freedom of expression” is claimed for gay rights activists, for abortion rights activists, and strip club dancers; but is not acceptable for those who proclaim the good news of Christ. People upholding biblical values are considered oppressors, harassers, forcing their views on others.

Schools promote atheism, humanism, sexual experimentation, homosexuality, New Age religion, transcendental meditation, even Satanism and witchcraft.

But teachers may be dismissed for suggesting creationism might be an option, for mentioning their faith in Christ, or for carrying a Bible. We might *offend* somebody!

This trend is NOT likely to be reversed!

We may be forced to make a choice:

go underground about our faith, act like everybody else, not let anyone know what we believe,

or, pay a price for our faith.

This wouldn’t be new for Christians.

Around the world, our brothers and sisters in Christ face persecution because of their faith.

How do we prepare our kids for life in a hostile world?

—A world where people don’t appreciate our faith, and many would prefer to get rid of it!

In one sense, I *welcome* opposition

I welcome it —because holding a minority view forces us to define clearly what we believe and why.

Opposition forces us to consider what issues we’re willing to die for

Opposition purifies, it drives away people hanging on for social reasons

Popularity has never produced a healthy church.

The church has never maintained health and faithfulness to God, when it’s been popular to be a Christian.

(From Acts to our day, . . .) ***When opposition grows, the church grows.***

Opposition prunes the church back to just healthy branches; the dead wood is removed.

What sticks around is vital and growing.

When it’s popular to be a Christian, *everybody* wants to be one!

But, when opposition develops, people only stick around when they have the real thing!

How do we prepare our kids to live for God

in the midst of criticism, opposition, and persecution?

60 years ago Helen and I were asking ourselves whether we wanted to bring children into the world to endure what would undoubtedly come during their lifetime.

A few years ago, our children were asking the same question!

And their children? Will they even ask?

How do we prepare our kids to live godly lives in a pagan context, in the midst of adversity?

One notable family in Scripture stayed true to their convictions and left an example for their son to imitate: **Moses' parents**.

We've spent the last few weeks considering Joseph's life; now we want to consider Moses.

His story can't be understood without first learning some lessons about Moses' parents! In Acts 7, Stephen speaks to the leaders of Israel who were about to *kill* him to shut him up.

Stephen traces deliberate parallels between the church in his day, and God's people in Moses' day.

MOSES WAS BORN DURING A TIME OF ADVERSITY for god's people 7:17-19

As God was fulfilling His promise and pouring out blessing on His people in 1st century, that's what it was like in Moses' day:

God was about to bless His people 7:17a

He was about to fulfill the promise He made to Abraham.

God's people were reproducing rapidly 7:17b

Steven uses terms Luke uses throughout Acts: they were "*increasing*" and "*multiplying*." In the midst of blessing and growth, . . .

Opposition comes from people who don't understand how much they owe to God 7:18

The opposition wants to destroy God's people 7:19

Pharaoh issues a decree to kill all the boy babies in Israel at birth.

When the midwives don't get the job done, he makes parents responsible for killing their own babies:

Exod. 1:22 "Every boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live."

When God is about to bless His people, . . .

When God's people begin to reproduce rapidly, . . . =>

. . . opposition will arise to destroy what God is doing!

What should WE expect when God is at work in OUR midst?

Should the opposition take us by surprise?

John warns the early church: "*Don't be surprised if the world hates you!*" (**1 Jn 3:13**)

MOSES' PARENTS TRUSTED GOD TO PROTECT THEIR FAMILY Heb. 11:23

They stand out in contrast to OUR schemes to solve it ourselves!

What are we supposed to DO? –just sit back and let GOD solve the problem?

When God gave them a child, he was beautiful

Moses is *special*' this is "*no ordinary child*"

Word used => *pleasing, delightful, good, beautiful*.

Used of vines that are *fruitful, choice, lush*.

Used of stones that are *precious or valuable*.

He's *beautiful*; he's unique; he's *special*!

He's *beautiful to his parents* Heb 11; Exod. 2:2 (and grandparents!)

Grandparents' perspective: Just enjoyed time with 9 wonderful grandchildren--nothing "ordinary" about them!

He's *beautiful to God* **Acts 7:20**

They trust God (and protect the child) **in spite of government policy.**

Moses' parents are determined not to give in to the pressure!

They aren't afraid to go against the current--to take a risk to remain faithful to their God.

They aren't going to join the popular trend to kill babies!

Their boldness to obey God *doesn't* move them to lead a protest march!

They're quietly obedient to God.

Their light reflects God's glory as they do what pleases Him--and others watch!

Their trust in God motivates them to make the choice to quietly obey Him, and risk the punishment--even death!

These aren't the most encouraging times to raise a family.

People probably warned them they'd *never* pull this off!

Besides, what kind of life would these boys face?

The *quality of life* would be abominable!

Nevertheless, they choose to trust God and live to please Him.

They raise him for three months at home.

Exodus focuses on *his mother's* plan and actions.

Acts and Hebrews indicate they both decided and took part.

We don't know what the father's role was, but it happens under his authority and he faces the consequences too!

Finally, it got to the place where they couldn't hide him any more.

When they're no longer able to hide him, they entrust him to God.

Jochebed fixed a basket to protect him and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile.

She had a carefully designed plan.

She knew exactly where she would put him.

She had it all figured out!

Then **she had to take her hands off, and leave him in God's hands!**

He became the son of another woman

He became a student of another--A PAGAN!--school

But **he never became the follower of another God!** **Prov. 22:6**

When we seek to train godly children, we ALL reach a point when we have to let go of our kids and trust GOD to handle them!

Have WE come to that place with our kids?

Every parent eventually comes to that place where we realize we can no longer

control what happens to our kids—sooner or later! Are you there yet?
When we get to that place, there's really only one thing we can do:

let go and trust God with them!

Are WE willing to let go, and trust GOD to take charge of our kids' life?
– whatever that means?

MOSES ENJOYED THE BEST THE WORLD HAS TO OFFER—all at Pharaoh's expense!
God accomplished His purpose through a pagan king's daughter 7:21-22a
Pharaoh's daughter raises him as a son

Pharaoh's daughter finds the baby and feels sorry for him.

She adopts him, and *pays Moses' mother* to raise him!

Talk about a bonus for obedience!

Pharaoh's daughter provides everything Egypt has to offer.

She provides the best education available.—all at government expense!

Moses becomes a powerful person—both in speech and in action. 7:22b

God is able to use a pagan system to accomplish His purposes.

We can trust Him to work through the system and to overcome the system!

Eventually the time comes when Moses has to make a choice: will he cling to his royal inheritance, or identify with his people?

MOSES' PARENTS MADE SURE HE UNDERSTOOD HIS RELATIONSHIP TO GOD 7:23-25

They prepared him for this day.

They weren't going to leave this up to chance.

They made sure he knew what the issues were.

He had to make his own choice!

But he couldn't forget what his parents taught him years before:

Moses has a heart for God's people 7:23

He chooses to identify with them and look out for their interests.

He's willing to give up his royal inheritance

Moses has a concern for justice 7:24

Observing the abuses affecting God's people, he has to *do something!*

Moses understands his place in God's plan 7:25

He could have chosen to ignore the injustice and live for himself.

But he knows why he's there.

He assumes God's people would understand too. *But they don't!*

God's people don't understand the plan, and they don't follow it.

Joshua mentions their service to the gods of Egypt.

Moses didn't find a faithful people, looking to God.

The **attitude of the people**--more pagan than Hebrew.

Godly parents teach their children to discover GOD's plan for their life—even when no one else in the neighborhood understands!

Though God's people don't get it--and don't care--Moses has a distinct attitude and lifestyle.

WHERE DID MOSES LEARN WHAT GODLY LIVING IS LIKE?

Where did he *catch the fever*?

He didn't learn it from Pharaoh's daughter!--nor Pharaoh's court

Moses learned about godly living from the example of godly parents.

He was alive because they trusted God.

They feared the God of heaven more than the king of the earth!

Jochebed trained her son to walk in God's ways.

Pre-school orientation prepared Moses for a lifetime of walking with God. *Does ours?*

That's the fruit produced by godly parents who trust God and quietly go about the business of doing what pleases God--*whatever it may cost!*

WHAT ARE OUR CHILDREN LEARNING BY WATCHING US?

Jochebed wasn't perfect! *Neither are WE!*

None of us are perfect!

Nevertheless, our children learn about trusting God in a pagan world, and they learn about living for Him, **by watching us.**

Are WE modeling what godly living looks like?

Will those who come behind us learn to be faithful by watching US?

Our culture is taking a stand for a perspective that is opposed to our God, and to everything we believe in!

Are our kids learning--by watching us--that God makes a difference in OUR life?

Are they learning that it's worth it to take a stand for Him--no matter what it costs?