

**May 8, 2022**

***Mother's Day Message - Baby in the Bulrushes***  
***Parenting With Fear & Faith***  
**Exodus 2:1-10; Heb 11:23**

Portions of this message adapted from : Baby in the Bulrushes  
Ray Pritchard. Keep Believing Ministries. Shawnee, Kansas  
<https://mailchi.mp/keepbelieving/dreaming-of-jesus-761342?e=fe1cb4d4b4>

**Psalm 127:3...** ***“Children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is His reward”***

Sometimes the question is asked are children a blessing or a burden. Well, it may depend on whether your asking a parent at 3:00am in the morning with a cranky child or at a sweet 3 year old birthday party with Unicorns and cupcakes. LOL.

To be honest it is really, they are surely a blessing from the Lord, but they, just like each of us adults, can be a burden at times.

The Bible is clear in it's teaching that families, parenthood and children are part of God's plan and He has a purpose and design for them all.

In today's society there sometimes seems to be an undercurrent of attack to destroy or at least to

undermine and redefine the family and how children should or should not be raised

“Christianity has always safeguarded the rights of children. God has called us to take care of the children in this dangerous world. Every child deserves our love and care”. (Pritchard)

**Let's take a story from the Old Testament that can teach us somethings about parenting and children.**

The passages are taken from Exodus 2, Acts 7, and Hebrews 11.

It's the Story of Moses and his birth and childhood.

“Because the Pharaoh of Egypt hated and feared the Jews, he ordered the Hebrew midwives to kill all the male Jewish babies. Because they feared God, the midwives refused to follow the king's orders. In a further act of deranged madness, he ordered all the male babies born to the Hebrews be thrown into the Nile. Soon thereafter a Jewish couple named Amram and Jochebed gave birth to a baby boy. For three months they managed to keep him hidden in direct defiance of the king's command”. (Pritchard)

➤ **Key Point No. 1: They feared & honored God so much that they didn't fear Pharaoh at all.**

“But they knew they couldn't keep the child hidden forever, so they placed him in a basket among the reeds along the bank of the Nile River. That was a wise thing to do because it was the place where women came to draw water. When Pharaoh's daughter came to take a bath, she saw the basket floating among the bulrushes near the bank of the river. Her servants brought the basket to her. When she opened it, the baby was crying. She recognized it as a Hebrew baby. And in one of the divine serendipities that fill the Bible, Moses' sister Miriam (who had been watching from a distance) came and volunteered to find a Hebrew mother to nurse the child. So it turned out that Pharaoh's daughter ended up paying Moses' mother to nurse her own baby! Eventually, they gave Moses to Pharaoh's daughter to raise in the Egyptian court. This was God's preparation for the day when Moses would go before another Pharaoh and say, “Let my people go!” (Pritchard)

Moses certainly is part of an extraordinary story. But, in reality, every child, every person, is extraordinary. I think that is a second Key Point...

➤ **Key Point No. 2: His Parents had a deep sense of Faith & Trust in God**

Let's look at this verse that points that fact out: ***Hebrews 11:23...By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.*** (Hebrews 11:23).

***1. “His parents hid Moses in direct disobedience to the king's command.***

“Pharaoh said, “Kill all the male babies.” They decided they would not cooperate with that evil command”. (Pritchard)

***2. They somehow knew he was “no ordinary child.”***

I have spoken many times about the value and preciousness of life. The Bible is clear that God knows, loves and has a plan for every person that He creates. Even though the world may not see the value in each person, God does, and thus so should we. This value is founded upon a deep faith and trust in the goodness and perfect design of God.

“In a sense, parents always feel this way about their children. It is natural to believe your son or daughter is the best, brightest, most beautiful baby in the whole world. In this case, the parents sensed God had a particular purpose in mind for Moses, one they could not have imagined at the time”. (Pritchard)

“As far as we know, no angel came and said, “Your son will someday deliver God’s people from Egypt.” But they knew he was a gift from God, a special delivery child from heaven, deserving of their love and protection. And so they risked everything to keep him alive”. (Pritchard)

### ***3. Their faith rose above their fear.***

“No doubt they flinched every time the baby began to cry because it meant the Egyptians might discover him. They took careful pains to keep him quiet and out of sight. Perhaps only a few others knew the baby had been born. *In a situation like this, you never know who you can trust.* Perhaps some of their neighbors would have turned the parents in, thinking that their disobedience invited the king’s wrath on the whole community. Every day Amram and Jochebed risked everything to keep their son alive. But they did not shrink back from their God-appointed task”. (Pritchard)

### ***4. They could not have foreseen how God would honor their faith.***

“Putting the child in a basket in the Nile was a desperate attempt to save him. But knowing they could not keep him, they put him in the water, hoping against hope that someone who loved babies would come along and find him. By the way, the word translated “basket” in Exodus 2:3 is used elsewhere in the Old Testament only to refer to the ark of Noah.

The basket in which his parents placed him was as safe for him as the ark was for Noah. Moses was safer in that basket than he would have been at home with his parents. All of it--every part of it—was overseen by God, who always intended to raise up Moses to one day deliver his people from Egypt. *Thus does God overrule the evil designs of wicked men.* This story illustrates a familiar saying of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: “The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.” (Pritchard)

*“Exodus 2 shows us how God moves in history. There is a flow to human events. Nothing ever “just happens.” He is not there by accident but by the sovereign hand of God”.* (Pritchard)

### **Think about the “what ifs” in this story:**

What if the soldiers found the baby?

What if the wrong person came along?

What if Pharaoh’s daughter came a day early or an hour later?

What if Pharaoh’s daughter didn’t notice the baby?

What if she felt no pity?

What if she didn’t agree to Miriam’s request?

What if she wanted the baby right then?

There were so many ways this could have gone wrong. Write over this story two words: But God!  
(Pritchard)

### **Key Point No. 3: Will You Choose to Let Your Fear/Respect of & Faith in God Lead You To Bold Faith-Filled Parenting**

“How can we dare to bring children into a world like this? The same way Amram and Jochebed did. By faith!

*By faith they came together.*

*By faith she conceived.*

*By faith they hid their baby.*

*By faith they raised him.*

*By faith they gave him back.*

Do not despair. *These are wonderful days to raise children for the Lord because the God of Moses' parents is our God too*". (Pritchard)

#### **The Fingerprints of God**

Every detail was under God's control:

The King's edict.

The baby's beauty.

The mother's plan.

The placing of the ark.

“The baby's cry.

The daughter's compassion.

The sister's wise suggestion.

The mother's agreement.

All of it woven together by the Lord.  
Nothing by chance.

As the story begins, we see the hand of God moving through circumstances to prepare the way for the birth of Moses who will one day deliver his people. And what are circumstances if not the fingerprints of God?

Who knows what God will do through our children if we receive them with love, protect them from those who would hurt them, and raise them up with all the strength and grace God provides?

If we do that, who knows what God will do with our children?

A gospel song says, “Little is much when God is in it.” This passage illustrates that truth. *Nothing seems more hopeless than a baby in the bulrushes*". (Pritchard)

#### **Do not despair!**

Be faithful to Jesus.

Do what you can with what you have.

Raise your family for God.

Pray for your children.

Pray for your grandchildren.

Take what you have and use it for God.

Who knows what God will do?

Perhaps you will raise a new Moses for our generation.

In the meantime, rest in this. *God knows what he is doing, and he is doing it. Trust Him!*

**Father, we thank you for this story of grace and goodness in a dark and dangerous time.**

**We thank you that when evildoers go from bad to worse, your promises are still true.**

**We pray that our children and grandchildren might grow up to be mighty servants of the Living God.**

**Lord, help us to take what we have and give it to you because “little is much when God is in it.”**

**In Jesus’ name, Amen!** (Pritchard)

Portions of this message adapted from : Baby in the Bulrushes  
Ray Pritchard. Keep Believing Ministries. Shawnee, Kansas  
<https://mailchi.mp/keepbelieving/dreaming-of-jesus-761342?e=fe1cb4d4b4>