

“THE RESILIENT LIFE”
(Overcoming the Crisis and Anxieties of Life Through Christ)

“GOD’S MERCY OVERCOMES MAN’S INJUSTICE”

Text: Exodus 2:1-9

INTRODUCTION: The story of Jochebed, Moses’ mother is a true example of *resilience*. It’s true that anyone can experience *discrimination* and many who do, succumb to a life of hatred and bitterness. Jochebed didn’t! In the midst of a cruel and demeaning culture, Jochebed raised her son in the love of God.

We might remember that the Israelites entered into Egypt through Joseph to escape famine in Canaan. Centuries pass and the Israelites, not only stay in Egypt, but they _____. Four hundred years after Joseph, a new Pharaoh becomes fearful of the growing population of the Jews, and he does what *insecure political leaders* always do – he oppressed the people of whom he was afraid (**Exodus 1:8-11**). The nation that had been saved from starvation by the policies of Joseph, turned against Joseph’s people, the _____.

The *Book of Exodus* records that the *bricks* which Pharaoh forced the Israelites to make included straw, and eventually the Israelites were forced to gather the straw for themselves to make the bricks – hence, increasing the daily quota for their labor (**Exodus 5:11-18**).

It was in the midst of this oppressive and cruel culture that a young couple named Amram and Jochebed married. Commentator Warren Wiersbe notes that for this young couple to wed “during such difficult times was an act of **great faith and love**, and God **rewarded** them for this.”

We soon find that Pharaoh’s harshness towards the Jews would reach beyond the point of reason, to targeting the Hebrew children for _____. It was into this culture of oppression, hatred and deep *discrimination* that *Moses* was born. We need to understand that prejudice in any form is _____.

Christians who are committed to living out their faith and obeying the commands of Christ to share the Gospel with others, are sure to face *discrimination* (**II Timothy 3:12**).

How are we, as the people of God, to respond to *discrimination*? Satan can use the initial hurt of discrimination and prejudice to get people to be bitter and sidetracked. How do we avoid these spiritual pitfalls? Some answers to these questions can be learned from the lives of Jochebed and Moses.

I. THE _____ OF A MOM

No one has a greater opportunity to make a profound impact on the life of a child than a MOTHER.

A. She Lovingly _____ (Psalm 127:3, Proverbs 22:6)

Exodus 2:2 – “**Goodly Child**” = Amram and Jochebed saw *value* and *worth* in Moses.

Amram and Jochebed accepted responsibility for this child and determined to protect him.

Hebrews 11:23 – Identifies Amram and Jochebed as people of great _____.

Life is a gift from God, and the raising of children is the responsibility of the parents, not an overbearing and overreaching _____.

It was after three months, it became impossible to hide Moses any longer, so Jochebed formed another plan.

B. She Trusts In _____ (Exodus 2:3)

We stand in amazement at Jochebed's trust in God. In the midst of a *discriminatory and oppressive culture* that intended to kill her son, there were no signs of bitterness or hatred seen in her life. (Ps. 7:1)

It is always faith in God that leads us to a place of _____ resilience. (MAP)
Jochebed's response goes against every grain of our *fleshly human nature* - but it honored God!

Romans 12:17-21 – Paul wrote to Christians in Rome who were also dealing with *discrimination* and *persecution* for their faith. How were they/are we to respond??

II. THE MERCY OF GOD

The power of injustice is dissolved in our lives by the _____ of God

A. Shown to Jochebed (2:5-6)

The daughter of the most powerful man in the world discovers the hidden, forbidden baby, and she had _____ on him. This is not *coincidence*; this is *divine providence*! God saw Jochebed, *heard her prayers, knew her fears, felt her burden* and miraculously intervened!

Jochebed's early nurturing of Moses led to him to be firmly rooted in his true identity.

We may experience discrimination and oppression at the hand of man, but _____ is ours by the Hand of God!

B. Shown to Moses (Acts 7:21-22)

Moses, spared from a *genocide*, is raised in the palace of Paroah. **Who, but God????**

One sure way to overcome the hurt of *discrimination* is to give _____! (Ps. 106:1)

In the midst of pending evil, it is ours to know that God is present and is working on our behalf.

CONCLUSION: It is in knowing Christ and experiencing the sure mercies of God, even in dark and testing times, we can recognize and give God thanks for His _____.

No matter how we are treated today, tomorrow, or in days to come; this we can know of a rich and lasting surety, that we have a God who loves us and Who gave His Only Begotten Son to die for our sins. We have experienced and live surrounded by the greatest mercy that mankind has ever known. Yes, we can be thankful for the blessings of our God!

NEXT WEEK – “THE MAKING OF MOSES” – *His Identity, His Failure, His Solitude, His Surrender and God's Triumph*

“THE RESILIENT LIFE”

“God’s Mercy Overcomes Man’s Injustice” – Part 2

Exodus 2:1-9

III. THE MAKING OF MOSES

In preserving the life of Moses, it becomes very apparent that God would one day use this man to deliver an entire nation.

How is it that God would develop Moses so that he would eventually lead the people of God out of the oppression and _____ that they had experienced?

A. In His Identity (Hebrews 11:24-26)

Although Moses had been raised in Pharaoh’s palace, he chose to identify himself as a child of God – he *purposefully* identified himself with God and His people.

This was deeper than a _____ identity, it was a spiritual identity.

As modern-day believers, we are pressured many times to identify ourselves to a *culture* that is increasingly *anti-God, anti-Christianity, and anti-Scripture*.

Moses’ choice was not _____, but it was a choice of faith and it honored God!

B. In His _____ (Exodus 2:11-12, Acts 7:24-25)

The scriptures tell us that although Moses showed strong faith, identifying himself with the people of God; when he witnessed discrimination, he reacted in the _____ rather than in faith. Moses’ motivation was rooted in simply *avenging the oppressed*.

Moses, acting out in the flesh, was a costly failure. Scriptures tell us that it would be another _____ years before he would be ready to lead God’s people from a life of bondage.

C. In His Solitude (Exodus 3:1, Numbers 12:2-3)

God would use the *backside of a desert* to prepare Moses for _____!

God would use the “*college of the desert*” to teach Moses the benefit of humility and meekness.

As believers, it is possible to have *real faith* and lack a faith that is _____.

James 1:3-4 – God desires to mature and to strengthen our faith by way of _____.

D. In His Surrender (Exodus 3:1-5, Exodus 4:18-20)

After a direct encounter with God, Moses becomes a _____ man.

Moses used four excuses to try to convince God that he was not God’s candidate for deliverance:

1. His Failures made him inadequate (3:11)

2. The Israelites would not believe he was God sent and would demand evidence (3:13-14)

3. The Israelites would not believe or obey his voice (4:1)

4. He was not _____ and was slow of speech (4:10-11)

E. In God's _____ (Hebrews 11:29, Exodus 14:29)

Repeatedly, as Moses stood before Pharaoh, he demanded – “*Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Let my people go.*” (5:1)

This transformed man, who once exercised an impulsive faith now maintains his composure under great _____.

CONCLUSION: It takes a mature faith to wait on God's timing while responding to discrimination and oppression. While Moses' parents (*Amram and Jochebed*) were being faced with great oppression and injustice, they chose to trust in God. In time, Moses would learn that even as a child of God, he could not fight his way to _____. God would make a way and **He did**, and **He still does!** Discrimination around our world is rampant and it is growing worse towards those who profess the Name of Christ. How are we to fight the oppression of our day? The arm of flesh, though vigilant and energized, will _____. We only triumph, as did Moses, by simply trusting God (**Psalm 34:19**). God empowers His Children to courageously respond to *discrimination* in faith-filled obedience, and as He does, He provides *resilience* that enable us to see his mercy and to rest in His _____.