

The Best Characteristics of Motherhood

Heb 11:23-29

23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command.

24 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible. 28 By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them.

29 By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned. NKJV

Mother's and motherhood in the Bible have a special place. The overwhelming majority of mothers ever mentioned in the Bible were very good.

In our text it simply says parents, but we know from scripture who they were. How many people here can name the parents of Moses? Anyone?

Well her name was Joch'ebed, (Heb. Yoke'bed, יוֹכָבֵד , Jehovah is her glory;

I. Faith

A. The whole theme of this part of Hebrews is about the superior quality that faith brings to a person's life.

1. If you look down that list you have the who's who of the Bible.
2. By faith people do great things because their trust is in God and God:
 - a. Empowers them
 - b. And embolden them
 - c. He gives them a special knowledge of what to do and how to do it.
 - d. Of the thousands of Hebrew mothers in Egypt, only Jochebed came up with this plan and it worked because God made it work for she had faith.

B. Faith in God is a must for mothers.

1. One thing that all parents come to realize is that they cannot do this alone.
2. Raising children has always been difficult.

3. Every child will frustrate their parents in one way or another.
 4. There comes a time when they give the child over to God because they are at their end.
 5. But for many, they gave their children to God long before the difficult days came.
- C. The writer is telling us that it was faith that brought in the other good qualities of these people.
1. Faith speaks of a confidence in a person you know and trust.
 2. Knowing and trusting God is for each one of us, our life's purpose.
 - a. 1 Peter 5:6-7 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. NKJV

II. Selflessness

- A. There was a willingness to die in order to keep this child alive.
1. For a slave to defy the king's command would mean certain punishment.
 2. There were not afraid of the king's command.
 3. They understood as Jesus said that to fear God is what is important.
- B. She loved the life of the child more than her own life.
1. This is the sign of a worthy mother.
 2. What a shame on our nation that could be mothers are aborting their children to the tune of 3 to 4 thousand per day.
 3. And now our new administration is working to have abortions paid for by our tax dollars.
 4. I have to say this. All torture is wrong and we should be a nation above torture of prisoners. But I am amazed beyond belief that the same people who want to prosecute the past administration for questionable torture techniques, at the same time defend the practice of reaching into a mothers womb and cutting of little arms and legs in order to abort a child simply because it would be a burden to the mother and father.
 5. Every child is a burden, especially to the parents, but that is what the fall has brought us.
 6. Maybe we should abort the parents and keep the child. At least the parents would be aware that they lives were being terminated because there were selfish people, but the child in the womb has no idea why their life is being taken away.
 7. Back in this day, Planned unParenthood would be there ready to throw the

children into the river and think what a grand job they were doing for society.

8. A society who destroys the most helpless and innocent among them is not worthy of God's name and not worthy of continuance.

III. Courage in the face of overpowering odds.

- A. Courage does not consider the cost.
- B. Courage looks beyond self to the greater good.
- C. Courage does the unreasonable, that is what makes it courage.

IV. Nurturing

- A. Kept the baby hid for 3 months - that takes a lot of work.
- B. Even when they put the baby into the river, it was with meticulous care
 1. The ark was prepared for safety and for comfort.
 2. Sister was never far away.
- C. Even later when she secretly told him who he was while allowing him to be raised as a son of Pharaoh's daughter.

V. Her reward.

- A. She got paid to raise her own son.
- B. Her son would live up to his blessings - A mother's greatest reward is the pride she can have in her children.
 1. He would become great in Egypt.
 2. He would live to encounter God on Mount Sinai.
 3. He would follow the call to lead the children of Israel out of the promised land.

Jochebed was a great mother and hardly anyone knows her name. But over 3 billion of the world's population know the name of Moses.

What a legacy to leave to the world.

We can serve our selves or leave a legacy, but we probably cannot do both.

I encourage you mothers and mothers to be, trust God, serve God, train your children for God.