

#25 Mother's day

Exodus 1:15-2:10.

A heart filled with love

¹⁵ The king of Egypt spoke to two Hebrew midwives named Shiphrah and Puah: ¹⁶“When you are helping the Hebrew women give birth and you see the baby being born, if it's a boy, kill him. But if it's a girl, you can let her live.” ¹⁷ Now the two midwives respected God so they didn't obey the Egyptian king's order. Instead, they let the baby boys live.

¹⁸ So the king of Egypt called the two midwives and said to them, “Why are you doing this? Why are you letting the baby boys live?”

¹⁹ The two midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because Hebrew women aren't like Egyptian women. They're much stronger and give birth before any midwives can get to them.” ²⁰ So God treated the midwives well, and the people kept on multiplying and became very strong. ²¹ And because the midwives respected God, God gave them households of their own.

²² Then Pharaoh gave an order to all his people: “Throw every baby boy born to the Hebrews into the Nile River, but you can let all the girls live.”

² Now a man from Levi's household married a Levite woman. ² The woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She saw that the baby was healthy and beautiful, so she hid him for three months. ³ When she couldn't hide him any longer, she took a reed basket and sealed it up with black tar. She put the child in the basket and set the basket among the reeds at the riverbank. ⁴ The baby's older sister stood watch nearby to see what would happen to him.

⁵ Pharaoh's daughter came down to bathe in the river, while her women servants walked along beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds, and she sent one of her servants to bring it to her.

⁶ When she opened it, she saw the child. The boy was crying, and she felt sorry for him. She said, “This must be one of the Hebrews' children.”

⁷ Then the baby's sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, “Would you like me to go and find one of the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?”

⁸ Pharaoh's daughter agreed, “Yes, do that.” So the girl went and called the child's mother.

⁹ Pharaoh's daughter said to her, “Take this child and nurse it for me, and I'll pay you for your work.” So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰ After the child had grown up, she brought him back to Pharaoh's daughter, who adopted him as her son. She named him Moses, “because,” she said, “I pulled him out^[a] of the water.”

I want thank all of you who came this morning to worship God. Knowing that is going to be a Mother's day I was planning to honor and to preach in that topic. As longer I thought as harder it became for me. The topic can be hard for so many of us. I was jumping from one choice of passages to another... Till by God's grace and Spirit I was able to see the light and encouragement for all of us in the passages from Exodus. So let's open our hearts to be able to hear God's word for all of us today.

How many of you can tell me what was Moses father's name? Mother's name? You have to dig deeper to find their name. If you have been studied Numbers very carefully you would found them! I hope all like Numbers :) They both are mentioned in Number's 26:59 :”The name of Amram's wife was Jochebed, Levi's daughter, who was born to Levi in Egypt. She gave birth for Amram to Aaron, Moses, and Miriam their sister”. Also we can read in Hebrew about what a strong influence Moses parents were for him: “By faith Moses was hidden by his parents for three months when he was born, because they saw that the child was beautiful and they weren't afraid of the king's orders”.

I chose a longer reading this morning because I could not help but notice few more women who are in this passage.

The nation Israel had been in Egypt for almost 400 years. They grew and prospered there, but before long, they became a threat to the reigning Pharaoh. So, Pharaoh forced them into slavery. Egyptians started to look at Israelites with disgust and dread. Pharaoh thought he is being smart. He thought if he will find the best assured way to stop the nation grow,- they will not be a threat anymore. So he talked with two midwives. In verse 15: The king of Egypt spoke to two Hebrew midwives named Shiphrah and Puah. What do you notice very unusual in this verse? The women are named... That is unbelievable. We do not know how old they were, we do not know if they have their own children or not... but these two women, Shiphrah and Puah, did not obey their king order. Not good. They risked their lives. How brave you have to be to stand against the highest world order. These two women, recognized the evil and did not submitted. Shiphrah and Puah knew what is right and what is wrong, They knew their God so well and trusted in Him so much, that they were able to say to what the world said you need to do. Their recognized their highest authority. They obey Him alone. I am amazed today by their courage, I am inspired that these two women helped so many moms to be moms. The attention is not about their own family, but the families and the babies they saved. Their faith in God and their love for the babies made them to be so courages. “They respected God and they did not obey Egyptians's king order”.

They obviously did a very good job. Because king noticed that the boys still grow in number... So he asks these two midwives: What going on? Listen what they answer: ““Because Hebrew women aren't like Egyptian women. They're much stronger and give birth before any midwives can get to them.” Well, that is not true, but the true is their saved lives and respected God. Our Lord sees our heart and sees our love for people and respect to Him. In verse 20: So God treated the midwives well. He gave the households of their own. God is living and active. God is very much

a part of our lives. Stay in trust and faith in Him. Make sure you have love in your heart. Pray for it. Show extraordinary love to people.

Now we come to our heroine -Jochebed. She didn't have to worry about her older children, Aaron and Miriam, but the little baby boy was in danger. When the baby boy was born she saw that the baby is beautiful. The word that is used for beautiful, would be better to translate good. Because it is the same word that is used in genesis 1. "And God saw that is was good". So Jochebed saw that the gift of a baby she has is good. So she hid from Egyptians because now the order was to kill all the boy babies by throwing them in to the Nile River. How long you can hide a baby? They do not stay very quiet. So at the age of three months Jochebed had to make a decision. The world is harsh. It was then and it is now. Think of this mother's heart... You probably know from your own life experience or we have heard some sharing this morning that the love mother's have is the closest example of God's love for us. At least it is for me.

Love that does not fit any logic, does not know any limits...Jochebed loved the Lord. You think if you trust the Lord and you love Him you will have easy solutions... probably not. Jochabed did not know what will happen after she put the baby in reed basket. I do not think there are coincidences in life. It is ok if you disagree. But the word basket in Hebrew that is used here is teivav. There is another place in the Bible that this word is used. Can you think of a bigger box that was sealed up and with black tar? Yes, it was Noah's ark. What a powerful image because the occupants of an ark are at the mercy of God. Little Moses is at the mercy of God. In the destruction all around you put your hope in Ark. In the hope and faith in God.

Did Jochabed know that the baby will be saved? Did she know she will see the baby again? Probably not. Decision to make is not easy. Even when we trust the Lord with our whole heart. We trust God saves, God sees and God is love. In all the circumstances. We risk, we do above the imaginable from the love we have...

Pharaoh's daughter. We do not know anything about her. Not even name. Not age... So interest that she is the daughter of Pharaoh, important girl but no name. Opposite from two midwives we read earlier. But I think no coincidence she is at the right place, at the right time. Did she plan to find a baby? To adopt the baby. I bet not...But listen: "When she opened it, she saw the child. The boy was crying, and she felt sorry for him". I pray my heart will never grow hard. I will always have compassion, I would have love for those who needs my love. Who need my help, my protection. Who cries for a help... She had a heart, she saw, she heard and she did not turned away...

Here comes another little women- Miriam. I hope man will forgive me today, but we have to praise the women today... Moses sister. She is already brave and knows what exactly to say and what to do. We know the story. Jochebed was able to nurse her son. We wish and we want the all the stories would have the best ending. Not sure how it was for Jochabed. I am certain she was so happy the child survived, but to give him back to Pharaoh's home... I believe it was heartbreaking. Mothering is a not easy. It is heart breaking. But you will not change it for anything. Being a mom, having a mom...I wish things would be different. But I put my trust in Ark, in God's hands. I do the very best to love. To love my kids, to love other kids, to love my family, to love you all. Sometimes

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we can not see the fruits of our love, of our labor, our giving, sowing... Shiprah and Puah did not know how it will impact the whole Israelites life by saving these baby boys. Jochebed did not know what an impact she is doing for the whole humanity by loving and saving this boy. Miriam started her acts of bravery young by loving her little brother. Love is powerful. Love makes a change. Big change. Love is the way people will know about God. Continue to love.