

WHEN THE ODDS ARE AGAINST US

Moses: A Portrait of Faith — Part 1

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I. The Context of Moses' Birth

“Eventually, Joseph, all his brothers, and that entire generation died. But the descendants of Israel had many children. They became so numerous and strong that the land was filled with them. Then a new king, who knew nothing about Joseph, began to rule in Egypt.” Exodus 1:6-8 (GWT) pg. 19

“He said to his people, ‘There are too many Israelites, and they are stronger than we are. We have to outsmart them, or they’ll increase in number. Then, if war breaks out, they will join our enemies, fight against us, and leave the country.’ So the Egyptians put slave drivers in charge of them in order to oppress them through forced labor. They built Pithom and Rameses as supply cities for Pharaoh. But the more the Israelites were oppressed, the more they increased in number and spread out. The Egyptians couldn’t stand them any longer. So they forced the Israelites to work hard as slaves. They made their lives bitter with back-breaking work in mortar and bricks and every kind of work in the fields. All the jobs the Egyptians gave them were brutally hard.” Exodus 1:9-14 (GWT) pg. 39

Five Foundational Understandings

A. The Israelites became a force to be reckoned with in Egypt.

B. The Egyptians began to see the Israelites as adversaries.

C. The Egyptians forced the Israelites into slavery.

D. The Israelites growth was because of God’s promise.

E. The Egyptians made the Israelites’ lives miserable.

“Then the king of Egypt told the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, ‘When you help the Hebrew women in childbirth, look at the child when you deliver it. If it’s a boy, kill it; but if it’s a girl, let it live.’” Exodus 1:15-16 (GWT) pg. 39

“However, the midwives feared God and didn’t obey the king of Egypt’s orders. They let the boys live. So the king of Egypt called for the midwives. He asked them, ‘Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?’ The midwives answered Pharaoh, ‘Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women. They are so healthy that they have their babies before a midwife arrives!’ God was good to the midwives. So the people increased in number and became very strong. Because the midwives feared God, He gave them families of their own. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people to throw into the Nile every Hebrew boy that was born, but to let every girl live.” Exodus 1:17-22 (GWT) pg. 39

II. The Faith of Moses' Mother

“Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.” Exodus 2:1-4 (NIV) pg. 39

“Then Pharaoh’s daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. ‘This is one of the Hebrew babies,’ she said. Then his sister asked Pharaoh’s daughter, ‘Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?’ ‘Yes, go,’ she answered. So the girl went and got the baby’s mother. Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, ‘Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you.’ So the woman took the baby and nursed him.” Exodus 2:5-9 (NIV) pg. 39

“When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh’s daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, ‘I drew him out of the water.’” Exodus 2:10 (NIV) pg. 39-40

III. The Failure Of Moses’ Methods

“One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people.” Exodus 2:11 (NIV) pg. 40

“Looking this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.” Exodus 2:12 (NIV) pg. 40

“The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, ‘Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?’ The man said, ‘Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?’ Then Moses was afraid and thought, ‘What I did must have become known.’ When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian....” Exodus 2:13-15 (NIV) pg. 40

Three Important Lessons

- A. Our sinful choices can alter God’s ideal plan for our life.
- B. The ends never justify the means.
- C. Our failures don’t have to be final.