

WHEN DOES MOTHER GET PAID?
May 14, 2017 morning service
Exodus 2:1-10

Thank you, choir. What a great word on this Mother's Day. I'm going to ask our moms as we read from Exodus 2 all across this room, would you please stand with me? All of our mothers. We say to you, we give honor to you today. We're grateful for all of you ladies.

Now I got an email from one of my deacons in my first church out of seminary. I pastored a church while in college but I finished seminary and went to First Baptist Church of Henrietta, Texas. We were in that meeting. He sent me an email. He said, "Now, pastor, don't mess up today." He said, "You remember back there in 1991 what you did on Mother's Day." I said, "I've been trying to forget all my life." You know how we used to do in the little country church. We'd honor the youngest mom and the oldest mom and all of those things. So I did that in that first church and after we did that, I said, "I'm going to ask everyone now, I want every single mother to stand up, all of you." They just sat and looked at me and scared them to death when I asked every single mother to stand up. They said, "Pastor, you're supposed to be married." I said, "Well I didn't mean it that way. I don't always mean everything I say to you."

Well the ladies that are standing up here they mean everything they say. I'm just telling you. I'm grateful to God for you today. Amen. I'm going to preach about your role this morning and I'm going to preach out of the Old Testament from the life of the mother of Moses, Jochebed. We learn some things from that lady. So while you're standing I'm going to read from Exodus chapter 2, beginning in verse number 1 and read these ten verses and we say to you, thank you, well done. After I read scripture I want to pray again and ask God's favor and blessing on you this day. Exodus 2, verse number 1.

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a daughter of Levi. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was beautiful, she hid him for three months. But when she could hide him no longer, she got him a wicker basket and covered it over with tar and pitch. Then she put the child into it and set it among the reeds by the bank of the Nile. His sister stood at a distance to find out what would happen to him. The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the Nile, with her maidens walking alongside the Nile; and she saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid, and she brought it to her. When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the boy was crying. And she had pity on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children." Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women that she may nurse the child for you?" Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go ahead." So the girl went and called the child's mother. Then Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him. The

child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. And she named him Moses, and said, "Because I drew him out of the water."¹

This morning as we pray, if you are a child seated close to your mother, as I pray and you remain there I'd just like you to reach up and find her hand or her arm or elbow. I want you to just touch her while I pray. Just hold onto her for a minute if she's there.

Father, like many in this room I'm unable to hold my mother's hand today but from afar I pray your favor on my sainted mother. Father, for these that are standing all across this room today I believe the most powerful class of people in the world that have influenced us because every one of us have had a mom. We realize not every one of those ladies did it right but the great majority of them, oh Father, they've infused us with life and wisdom and discipline and love and encouragement. I pray for these ladies today that you'd just let heaven's due rest on them. Meet every need they have even with a heavy heart today. I pray, Lord, now out of scripture that You'd instruct all of us and help all of us build family in a Bible way. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Well if you love these ladies just thank God for them today. Amen? We're grateful to the Lord for all of these that stand and now sit among us.

It was Abraham Lincoln who said these words, "No man is poor who has a godly mother." You're a rich man indeed if you have a mother that is godly. The flowers that are here today, I don't know who put these here. They're given anonymously in honor of my mother and then a note for other mothers as well but they named my mom. I don't know that's ever occurred. Somebody did that. I noticed Friday when I picked up my worship guide. I'm grateful to God today for that and for that gift that is there because I'm a rich man indeed like many of you because of having a godly mother.

Augustine that great, great, great theologian said it was his mother Monica's prayers that moved him where he needed to go. It was Samuel who had Hannah. What a power she was. It was Timothy that had Eunice. What a dynamite mother in his life and Moses we find in our text today, Moses had Jochebed.

Now we know her name not from Exodus 2 but from Exodus 6 and verse number 20. The Bible says that Amram married his father's sister, Jochebed, and she bore him Aaron and Moses and the length of Amram's life was 137 years. We find her name, Jochebed, married to Amram and then they had three children that are mentioned quickly. Miriam, the young lady, we think is probably about 15 when she fetched Moses out of the basket and Aaron we think is three or four years old when all of this is occurring when the baby Moses is born. The reason of course she put him out there in that mess of the Nile is that Pharaoh said, "We're going to kill the male children."

Jochebed had to deal with that. So we find in this reading that after having the baby and hiding him, she floated him, and then she trusted him to the hand of God.

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There's simply three simple things I want you to see out of the life of Jochebed about mother and about family today.

Number one. Jochebed faced distractions. Every mother faces distractions. Now what had happened in Egypt according to Exodus chapter 1 and verse number 8 that a Pharaoh had arisen who knew not Joseph and he made it hard and the Hebrews were multiplying in numbers and they were growing stronger and greater and greater and more numerous. Pharaoh said, "We've got to do something about this," and he told the midwives, "If it's a baby girl, let her live but if it's a baby boy you need to kill him while on the birthing stool." The midwives, fearful of God, wouldn't do it. Then when called on the carpet they said, "The Hebrew women are so strong they have the child before we get there." Pharaoh knew that he could stop the population explosion if he could kill the baby boys.

You see, it still takes a male and female to make one. Science today doesn't understand that. I'm just giving you a little biology lesson today. It still takes male and female to make a family. That's how you make three and four and five, six, seven, eight, nine, and ten. Well he was trying to kill the populous. Jochebed became pregnant and when the baby was born you could just see her waiting. "Is it a boy or a girl? If it's a girl she's fine but if it's a boy, he'll be thrown into the Nile."

She has the little boy, Moses. The Bible says he was a lovely child, a beautiful child, easy to look at. He was a gorgeous baby. Distractions. Egypt was polytheistic. There were gods everywhere. The number one was the god that they gave their children to when they would sometimes sacrifice their child to this pagan god by throwing the child to the crocodiles in the Nile River. There were distractions. Children were sacrificed. There was godlessness all around.

Let me tell you, friend, if you have a baby in our culture today, you've got distractions to deal with. If you bring a child into our world the world will bombard that child saying, "There is no absolute truth. Nothing is true." Jochebed was going to raise Moses. Moses is going to give us the Ten Commandments, handle them for God. You can't have the Ten Commandments, not in our culture. How many of you in this room think it's a disgrace that we have taken down the Ten Commandments in public places? Well Amen. Yes indeed it is but it's so. That's one of the distractions.

Abortion on every side. People that just don't want to have children by the millions are aborting. It's a distraction. Broken homes and blended families and gender confusion and difficulty. I'm telling you, you bring a baby into this world now, there are all kinds of distractions. Jochebed faced those distractions when this baby was born. How do you face distractions? Ladies you know how you do it. You face those distractions on your knees crying out to Holy God in prayer over your family. Am I telling you the truth? You call those children's names to the Lord. You pray over them. You are steadfast and you never give up because while the world says there's many gods, you know there's just one. While the world says there's no absolute truth, you know there is and you carry it in a leather bound book. You know there's absolute truth

and you're teaching it. You know that children are struggling all over with all kinds of issues with bullying and how to eat and what to eat and gender identity and all of those things and which bathroom you can go in. There are just distractions everywhere but you know the truth and you've got to raise your child in truth and the way you do that is you begin on your knees in prayer.

I will never forget. I will never forget the day we brought Rachel home from the hospital. She's 33. She'll be in the second service, got two kids of her own now. I had not a clue. I mean I didn't even have any help growing up. I'm an only child. I'd never even seen another child raised, correctly or incorrectly. My wife had a C-section. It was hard. We came home after three or four days and they laid that baby and thank God that a mother-in-law came and helped us and they – I will never forget it, Keith. I'll never forget it. I crawled up under that baby crib and I buried my nose in the carpet under that crib with a sleeping baby over my head and I said, "God, I don't know how to do this. I'm grateful." That wasn't the last time Liz and I buried our nose in the carpet.

There are distractions everywhere but I'm telling you, the way to stay over those distractions is to stay focused on the throne of grace. Pray, pray, pray, pray. She faced distractions. Secondly we find Jochebed, not only did she face distractions but secondly, Jochebed displayed determination. Yes she did. She was determined and she displayed this persistent determination.

In Acts 7:20 we find that the Bible says: *It was at this time that Moses was born; and he was lovely in the sight of God, and he was nurtured three months in his father's home.* According to that sermon that we looked at a few weeks ago out of the 7th of Acts. She was determined. What did Jochebed do? She hid him. She hid the baby. They thought they were going to kill the baby so she hid the child. She sheltered Moses as long as possible. Then she made a little basket and released him.

When we have children we shelter them as long as we can. We hold them up close. Some of them are sheltered by home schooling. Some sheltered by private school. Some sheltered by public school but they go. Now, friend, the day comes, whatever you've done with your – the day comes when you release them. Friend, when you release them you better have displayed determination in your own faith walk so they will catch it from you.

I was the taxi driver. I would have moved licensing for driving to 13 if I could have voted it in. Not because I thought they were ready but because I was ready to quit. I drove my kids to school. That was my job. I will never forget. Sharon Korn Parrish is usually up there on the screen but she's away for Mother's Day. Her little girl and my little girl were like twins. I remember the day that I drove to Tate High School on the first day of ninth grade and I pulled up in the line and a boy in front of us got out of the back seat of the car. He was 6'6" if he's an inch. I looked in the rear view mirror at those girls. Their eyes were this big. They were about to get out and go in this school. Let me tell you, friend, Elizabeth Ann Bennett T aylor had put determination into the life

of my children. She displayed this tender determination, staying by to hide them and help them as long as she could but after a while you've got to release them to the world.

Am I telling the truth? After a while you let them go. Then they try to come back and you say, "No, no. I let you go." Amen. It's one of the hardest days in the world. Have you put enough determination for them to stand by themselves when they get off over there to that school where they don't teach Jesus or that job where some old godless man or woman is running the show? Have you put enough grit in their soul so that when you release them and float them in the Nile of the culture they'll stand the test?

She did it. Jochebed displayed this determination but thirdly Jochebed also – not only did she display a determination but she instilled a dedication. Now get the picture. She put him in a basket and Pharaoh's daughter that didn't know Joseph came down and saw the basket and heard the baby crying. You know the story. Moses means to be drawn of water. They came over and she looked in and said, "It's a Hebrew child." You could tell the difference by looking at an Egyptian and a Hebrew. So politically incorrect but she said, "It's a Hebrew child." Miriam was watching in the bulrushes. She comes walking out, "Ma'am, do you want me to get a Hebrew lady to take care of the child?" She said, "That would be great." So she ran and got Jochebed. Jochebed nursed the baby and then took care of the child. How long? We're not certain. Maybe til he was weaned and that was all but maybe longer. I'm telling you, you can't find it here but I cannot help but believe when Pharaoh's daughter needed a babysitter, she knew there was something connected to this Hebrew woman.

So Jochebed has time with Moses and she is instilling this godly dedication. She is living out and putting in him Proverbs 6, verses 20 and 21. *My son, observe the commandment of your father and do not forsake the teaching of your mother; bind them continually on your heart; tie them around your neck.* What your momma and daddy tells you, you ought to have them in your heart and around your neck. They ought to be close to you. Don't forget, observe, and remember. Here is Jochebed putting that dedication. What did she teach Moses? I think she taught him positive things. Kids need to hear positive words out of mother. Amen? You need to be telling them who God is. When they lie down, when they rise up, and when they walk out. Tell them who God is. That's what those grand Old Testament stories are about. Tell them who God is. High and lifted up. You keep putting God in the picture.

You tell them who God is and secondly you tell them who they are. Tell them who they are. Tell them they're loved. Tell them they're special made by God. Use positive words. Tell them who God is. Tell them who they are. Let them see your example of failure because they're going to fail so let them know. There are times that we blow it and lose our cool.

I'm reminded of the man that couldn't make any money as a farmer. He was about to starve to death and he had to take care of his family. He decided the only way to take care of his family was to rob a bank. So he got him a note and he didn't know

what he was doing but he wrote the note and got a gun and bag. On that note he wrote, as he was going to slide it to the teller, "Don't mess with me. This is a stickup." He went in there and when he got there he handed her the gun, pointed the bag at her, and said, "Don't stick with me. This is a mess up." We've all done it, haven't we? You ever mess up? It's alright. Your kids needs to see. They don't need to know you're perfect. They need to know you're real and that when you mess up you fess up and when confession comes through you, let them see your example. Give them positive words.

Friends, there's a difference in encouragement and praise. I see people telling kids all the time, I just, I've spoken to this several times. Don't tell your kids they can be anything they want to. They cannot be anything they want to. You say, "Mine can." No, they can't. I want to play in the NBA but I've got short man's disease. I'm telling you, that ain't happening, okay? I've told you before, I've got the heart of a champion just in the body of a wimp. That's my problem. Your kids can't be anything they want to. You tell them to strive. Tell them they did well. Put praise on them. But be careful, you don't just praise what they do, also encourage what they are. When you see persistence, brag on it. If they get all A's, Amen, that's good but I'm telling you, if they're trying hard and they come in with B's and C's, brag on them. Let me tell you, friends, I was in the half of the class that made the top half possible. I mean, somebody's got to brag on you, alright? Amen.

I heard a president of a university say one time to love on your "A" students. They'll come back and teach for you. Love on your "B" students because they'll come back and teach for you. Love on your "C" students because they'll build you a science building. Amen. I'm just telling you that you need to encourage them. Find out how they are fearfully and wonderfully made and encourage that. That's what Jochebed did. She instilled dedication.

So the day came when Moses went off down to Egypt. He was in the Nile River Country Club. He had a Mercedes chariot. He had everything he wanted that money could give and the Bible said he was educated with the best education in Egypt but according to Hebrews 11:24-25 the day came when they wanted to put the crown on his head and Moses said "No." Why? Jochebed had whispered in his ear, "There's only God and Jehovah is His name. You are not it. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. Don't forget to love your neighbor like yourself." Pharaoh was God and Moses knew he was not that.

He went out with a common man and wound up 40 years on the backside of nowhere and heard a voice in a bush. You'd put a man in an insane asylum for that today. "Moses, Moses, take off your shoes. You're standing on holy ground." How did he know that was God? I'm telling you, Jochebed whispered in his ear. He got up on that mountain and God took his finger and wrote in rock. Ten Commandments. Let me ask you again, how many of you think it's an abomination that we've taken the Ten Commandments out of school? Anybody? How many of you think it's an abomination that we've taken the Ten Commandments down in the hallways of government? How many of you have got them posted in your house? Don't curse the government if you

won't post them on the walls of your own home. I've had them on my wall since I had walls. You need to put them. Find you one. Find you something and put them up there.

Number two. Not only – you can go to places like Hobby Lobby and find that. That's a great Christian man running that place. As a matter of fact, the next time you're in Washington, D.C., they're opening it in just a few days. They've got a brand new museum coming up and the owner of Hobby Lobby is the one putting it in. It's the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C. Amen. It is a marvelous place, given to the scriptures, three stories of it. There's all kinds of artifacts. I talked to that man just the other day, Mr. Green. "Why are you doing that?" He said, "We just felt like of all places right there in the crown jewel of the United States, we ought to lift up the very word of the living God."

Friend, let me tell you, they've made millions of dollars by selling squirrels on birdhouses. Amen. And they've honored God with it and almost lost it all in a lawsuit when they took a stand. You can go to Hobby Lobby and find the Ten Commandments or find them somewhere else. Get you an artist to calligraphy that. We found one somewhere. We've had it for years. I looked at ours last night. When you come in the door of my house, it's immediately to your left. Right there. It's the first thing you see when you walk into the kitchen. You'll find that. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Not only should you post them, you ought to memorize them. As a matter of fact, we ought to just have a Sunday where everybody has to come down to the microphone and name them one through ten. I don't mean just name them, I mean get them in order. Hey, there's ten of them. You know the starting lineup for the Florida State Seminoles, you ought to know the starting lineup for the Lord God. Or the Gators or the Tide or LSU, anybody else you want to throw in there, alright? Amen.

It would be a great place to begin, momma, instilling that dedication. Just teach your children those Ten Commandments. Have a little test. Have a little fun. Write those down.

The interesting thing out of this text – that's the introduction to my sermon. The sermon's short. In verse number 9 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away. Nurse him for me and I shall give you your wages." She paid Jochebed to nurse the child. My question this morning is how does a mother get paid? How does a mother get paid? Let me tell you how a mother gets paid. When they roll her in that delivery room and she hears a cry and they swaddle that child and lay that baby on her chest, she gets her first check. She gets paid. When she sees little fat fingers at three or four years old for the first time at a meal put those hands together and say, "In Jesus' name, thank you for those that were bapitized today," she gets wages. When mother's sitting in a pew and the pastor's standing down at the front and that little 11-year-old boy like William steps out and walks to the front and mother stands there and sees him go to make his profession of faith, wages, wages.

When mother sees her child walk into those baptismal waters saying, “I believe that Christ died for me,” wages, wages. It’s a deposit. When mother sees that child living for Christ in a crooked culture, standing alone if need be and influencing others, wages, wages. When mother sees that young adult outgrow the need for public attention and he or she gets her affirmation and all she needs from the presence of Christ, wages. When that mother sees that child walk down the aisle of this church and take the hand of a man or a woman and say, “I do” and mean it and keep yourself pure sexually before you walk, wages, wages.

When they watch that young couple come to church and drop their tithe in the offering plate like they’ve been teaching them, wages. When Mother’s Day rolls around and the phone rings and mother picks it up and hears a child say, “Momma, I love you,” wages. That card comes in the mail – I did it for the first time. For years I’ve been sending flowers and a card. Not this year. I sent a card and a Cracker Barrel Card. Wages. I hit the gold mine. She said, “We’ve got this new preacher and sometimes on Sunday night like on Mother’s Day we don’t have church.” I said, “We’re not having church on Mother’s Day. It’s family time.” She said, “We’re not doing that either. I don’t know if I’m for it or against it but since they’re not meeting I’m taking your daddy to dinner on your card.” Wages. Wages.

When they call you and say, “Momma, we’re pregnant. Your first grandchild is going to be raised in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” Wages. Wages. One day when you walk by and you kiss her in that box and she’s in the presence of her Jesus and she knows you’re living for Christ and you’re giving honor to whom honor is due, wages, wages. Money can’t buy it. Are you making the deposit? Wages.

Anybody can pay this bill and we all owe it. Wages. Everyone in this room, everybody needs three homes that’s in this room. Everybody needs an earthly home. You say, “Pastor, I’m single.” That’s a home. Your friends are around you. Everybody needs an earthly home. You need a place you call home. It’s not just the place, it’s the folks. It’s what you build. Everybody needs that. Everybody needs a church home. Amen. Everybody needs a church home. If you live here or you think – you ought to call Olive your church home. I talked to a family yesterday that moved here from up north. They said, “We’re going to make Olive our home.” I talked to a lady that moved here from the Midwest on Thursday night. She said, “I’ve been coming. I need to make this my church home.”

Everybody needs an earthly home. They need a church home. Thirdly, I’m telling you, everybody needs an eternal home. Just because you’re a mother doesn’t mean you’re going to heaven. Just because you love your mother doesn’t mean you’re going to heaven. You must call on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and He says, “I’ve gone to prepare a place for you.” In my Father’s house are many dwelling places, mansions, residences, homes. Friend, you’ve got to have preparation to go to heaven. How do you get prepared? You get prepared by calling on the name of the Lord. You pray a prayer like this. You say, “Lord, I’m a sinner. Lord, come into my heart and

forgive me. Lord, make me a Christian. Lord, I ask you today to save me.” You pray and after you ask Him to save you, you say, “Lord, I’ll never be ashamed of you and I’ll be baptized like those did today. Lord, I’ll do....” You call on His name and whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be – what’s the Bible say, church? Saved. They’ll be saved, saved, saved.

Jochebed. She’s not a big player. You won’t even find her name in this narrative. You’ve got to look somewhere else to find out who she is but when that boy went up on the mountain, when he saw the bush, wages. What Pharaoh’s daughter paid was nothing compared to the obedience and the faithfulness of the one drawn out of water.

Now I know in the life of the church there are three mountain peak Sundays. There’s Easter, there’s Christmas, and number three is Mother’s Day. It’s when people come. More guilty boys come to church today than any other day. Amen. And a few girls are thrown in there. On this day, you don’t do it to make her smile and then go off and be a hypocrite but on this day, you should make sure you’re giving wages by being right.