

## ***A MOTHER'S REWARD***

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Numbers 26:59 [also Hebrews 11:23; Exodus 2:1-10]

How many received a Mother's Day Card from your children this week?

One Mother's Day morning, Calvin came to his mother's bedside and said. "Hey, Mom! Wake up. I made you a Mother's Day card. I did it all by myself."

Wiping the sleep from her eyes, she opened Calvin's card and began to read:

*"I was going to buy you a card with hearts of pink and red.*

*But I thought I'd rather spend the money on myself instead.*

*It's really hard to buy things when my allowance is so small.*

*I guess you're lucky I'm giving you anything at all.*

*So, Happy Mother's Day! There, I've said it, and I'm done.*

*Now, how 'bout getting up and fix some breakfast for your son."*

It was signed, "Calvin."

Calvin's mom paused and said, "Thank you Calvin. That was very thoughtful."

"Yeah... And did you notice the part about my small allowance?"

### **MOTHERS' MAINTENANCE MANUAL**

Many take better care of their cars than their mothers. Yet we only expect our cars to last 6 or 7 years, but we expect our mothers to be there for a lifetime. Maybe we need a maintenance manual for mothers so we would know how to take care of them at least as well as we do our automobiles. Items that might be included in this manual:

**ENGINE:** A mother's engine is one of the most dependable you can find. She can reach top speed at a single cry from a sleeping child. But regular breaks are needed to maintain peak performance.

**BATTERY:** Mother's batteries should be recharged regularly. Hugs, kisses, deeds of kindness, and frequent "I love you's" will help keep Mom's batteries recharged.

**CARBURETOR:** When a mother's carburetor gets flooded it should be treated immediately with Kleenex and sympathetic words.

**BRAKES:** See that she uses her brakes to slow down and come to a full stop occasionally. (A squeaking sound indicates a need for a rest).

**FUEL:** Most mothers can run indefinitely on coffee, leftovers, and snacks, but an occasional dinner at a nice restaurant will really add to her efficiency.

**CHASSIS:** Mothers run best when their bodies are properly maintained. Regular exercise should be encouraged and provided for as necessary. A visit to a hair-dresser may also be helpful. If you notice the chassis begins to sag in the rear, immediately start a program of walking, jogging, or bike riding. These are most effective when done with fathers.

**TUNE-UPS:** Mothers need regular tune-ups. Compliments are both the cheapest and most effective way to keep a mother purring contentedly.

►If these instructions are followed consistently, our mothers should provide a lifetime of good service and a constant source love.

Mother's Day is traditionally the day when children give something back to their Moms for all their Moms have done for them—All the diapers they changed... all the noses they've wiped... All the tears they've dried... All the puke they cleaned up in the middle of the night... and all the bloody elbows they healed with a kiss. Mother's Day is the day Moms are rewarded for washing dirty clothes... providing taxi service to school and soccer practice... and preparing lunches and dinners seven days a week.

►In this message I want to preach about **the greatest reward a mother could ever receive**. To illustrate this reward I want to look at the mother of the greatest leader (humanly speaking) the world has ever known—MOSES and his mother's name is JOCHEBED.

**There would have never been a Moses if it were not for the FAITH of his mother—JOCHEBED.**

Typically, the **most influential person** in a person's life is not the President... nor people in Congress... and not even a pastor—Most people generally agree the person who wielded the greatest influence in their lives was their MOTHER (for good or bad)!

U.S. Census Bureau report that only 10% of American households with children under 18 years old consist of a working father and a stay-at-home mother. Few children enjoy the benefit of having a full-time mother at home 24/7. That is unfortunate. Motherhood is a full-time job under the best of conditions.

The destiny of children is largely determined by their character. **Who is in the best position** to bend, shape, and mold a child's pliable character? Most likely it is the child's mother.

- Everything we know about Jochebed is in Numbers 26:59; Exodus 2:1-10; 6:20; Hebrews 11:23.
- **Jochebed's name** means "glory of Jehovah."
- She was the mother of three children: **Miriam, Aaron, and Moses**. When Moses was born, Aaron was 3 years old and Miriam was about 10 years old.
- Jochebed was a mother of faith (Heb. 11:23), and faith is always rewarded (Heb. 11:6)

## I. The **PREVALENCE** of her faith.

- A. Moses was born during a dark time. Conditions were bad—OPPRESSION— Israel was in bondage to Egypt.
- B. IDOLATRY was widespread. Many Israelites had become idolaters to the gods of the Egyptians (Ezek. 20:6-9).
- C. Amram and Jochebed were among those who still had faith in the true God. **They did not follow the crowd.**
  1. It is possible to live the Christian life while in **the midst of** a crooked and perverse nation.
  2. You can live for God in adverse conditions.
  3. **Faith is not dependent upon favorable circumstances.** Faith depends on **believing what God says.**

## II. The **PARTNERSHIP** of her faith (Heb. 11:23).

- A. Both Jochebed and Amram were in agreement.
- B. There was **no argument about what to do.**
- C. Husbands and wives need to see themselves as **partners** in raising their children.

## III. The **PERCEPTION** of her faith (Heb. 11:23).

- What is meant by the word “**proper.**” Exodus 2:2 says Jochebed saw Moses to be “*a goodly child.*” Stephen described Moses as “*exceeding fair*” (Acts 7:20). Did she “see” something special in Moses?
  - **One thing is sure:** Jochebed and Amram knew if all the male children were killed, the *promised seed* would never come and Jacob’s prophecy of Israel being brought out of Egypt would never be fulfilled (cf. Gen. 48:21; 50:24-25).
  - Bible faith comes from hearing the Word of God (Rom. 10:17).
  - Jochebed looked at Moses with eyes of faith and believed God could use her son to fulfill His promise to bring Israel out of Egypt.
- A. **When you look at your child, what do you see?** If you believe your child will never amount to much... or that he or she will be a “problem child” and never accomplish much for God—you reveal a lack of faith. Faith is the substance of things not yet seen.
  - B. We should look at our children with the eye of faith—Believe God has a significant role for them to fulfill (future preacher,

missionary, deacon, S.S. teacher, etc). Therefore you will do all you can to make sure their life counts for God, like Jochebed.

**IV. The *PRIORITY* of her faith.** They put a higher value on the life of their child than the government!

- There were some who obeyed Pharaoh's commandment and allowed their children to be killed (Acts 7:17-20).
- A. Amram and Jochebed were faced with a choice.
  1. Pharaoh's decree: All new-born males were to be thrown to in the Nile River (Ex. 1:22).
  2. **The safety of their child was a priority!** (Heb. 11:23). [Ironically, by placing Moses in the Nile River, they were subtly obeying Pharaoh's decree.]
- B. Faith decides what is the priority. The greater the faith—the greater the obedience. TRUST & OBEY.

**V. The *PEACE* of her faith** (Heb. 11:23). Jochebed's **faith overcame her fear**. She **trusted God** to make a way for her new born son!

- A. They were not afraid of the king's commandment. Do you know why they were not afraid? Because their faith was in a higher "King."
- B. Faith is the great remover of fear, therefore a great source of peace.
  1. A distraught person is a person wrapped up in fear.
  2. The Bible often couples faith with "*fear not.*" Mark 5:36—"*...Be not afraid, only believe...*"

**VI. The *PROTECTION* of her faith** (Ex. 2:2-3).

- Jochebed entrusted Moses to God's care (faith). There were all kinds of dangers—mosquito bites (malaria); predatory birds; crocodiles.
- A. Mothers are great protectors. They want to keep their children safe.
  1. They protect us physically... morally... emotionally... and spiritually.
  2. They protect us with their **prayers!** The greatest protection we can offer our children is our prayers.
- B. **The means of her protection**—She prepared an ark.

➔Noah's ark / Jochebed's ark—both vessels used as a means of salvation from the waters of death. **The river that had been meant for his death became the means for his salvation!**

➔Moses means “*drawn out of water*” (v. 10). His whole life revolved around water. **Met his wife** by drawing water from a well; **Turned water to blood**; parted the **waters of the Red Sea**; Drew **water from a rock!**

1. He was SAFE in the ark—She daubed it with slime and pitch to keep something IN and keep something OUT!
2. We need to keep our kids IN a safe environment. There are things we need to keep out of our kids lives.

### **VII. The PATIENCE of her faith** (Ex. 2:3). “*The trying of your faith worketh patience.*”

- A. She **released** her child. It takes faith to **commit** your child to the watch care of God and trust Him to work in your child's life.
  - ➔Mom's have a hard time of “letting go” at this point.
- B. She **waited**. How the devil tempts us during this time!
  1. Faith is not in a hurry. It is not impatient. Faith never puts a deadline on God. It **waits on God's perfect timing**.
  2. **Faith believes in due time it will be rewarded.**

### **VIII. The PAYMENT of her faith** (Ex. 2:4-8).

- It appears Miriam was a maid to Pharaoh's daughter. She seizes the opportunity and offers a suggestion (v. 7). “...*FOR THEE...*” Miriam drops the subtle “hint” that Pharaoh's daughter ADOPT the baby for herself (cf. v. 10).
  - God's providential care—(1) Pharaoh decrees all male babies to be cast into the river. (2) By faith, Jochebed entrusts her child to God's care and commits him to the river. (3) 24 hours later she is nursing her own baby in Pharaoh's court and getting paid to do it! (Isa. 55:9).
- A. Reward of seeing her son saved and restored to her!
  - B. Reward of joy in raising one of the greatest men who ever lived—Deliverer... Lawgiver... Prophet... Founder and leader of the Jewish nation... Writer of the first five books of the Bible.
  - C. The reward of her faith was seeing Moses become a man of faith himself—**Her faith became his faith** (cf. Heb. 11:23-24).
    - ➔Where did Moses get his faith? From his mother.

➔ 2 Tim. 1:5—*“When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.”*

**SUMMATION:** A godly son or daughter is a mother’s greatest reward! To see her child grow up to be a good Christian... faithful church member... responsible adult... law-abiding citizen... productive member of society... loving spouse... a parent of godly children. What more could a mother want than this? (See Proverbs 23:24-25).

Let me close with the story of the “Little Palace Beautiful?” In the Little Palace Beautiful there were four rooms.

1. First is the room called FANCY. In this room sleeps a beautiful baby named the **Child-that-Never-Was**. It was longed for... hoped for... dreamed of, but never came.
2. In the west room looking out toward the sunset, is the room called MEMORY. There sleeps the **Child-that-Was**. He came and stayed just long enough to gather the love of our heart, then he was taken away.
3. In the north room is the room called EXPERIENCE. In this room is the **Child-that-Is**. He is the child that now plays in your home and sits in your Sunday School Class.
4. Finally, in the east room looking out toward the sunrise is the room called HOPE. Here sleeps the **Child-that-Is-to-Be**.

We are interested in all four of these children. But our interest in the four is concentrated on our care for just one, and that is the **Child-that-Is**.

- We think tenderly of the **Child-that-Never-Was**.
- We think sadly of the **Child-that-Was**.
- We think hopefully of the **Child-that-Is-to-Be**.
- But we realize that all his possibilities are locked up in the **Child-that-Is**. Our focus must be upon him.

My Mom is in heaven today. I saw her trust Christ as her Savior a few months before she died. In that short time, I saw her life changed. The same Gospel that saved my Mom, can save you! Will you be saved. That would make this Mother’s Day a very HAPPY day for your family!