**The Beauty of Infant Moses**

*Exodus 2:2; Hebrews 11:23; Acts 7:20*

**Introduction**

1. Moses was a man of great faith. He did many things for the Lord, and stands out in the Bible as a prominent character.
2. While it was by God’s grace that Moses became the man of faith that he was, and took part in such important events in the history of the world, and God’s will, his parents played a great part.
3. When Moses was born, his parents saw him as a gift from God, and understood that his purpose of existence was to serve God. In this way they influenced him and trained him in every way they could.
4. This is how parents todays should view their children – as a gift from God, and for God. Parents should raise their children to be individuals of faith – servants of God.
5. Moses, a Hero of Faith
6. The Faith of Moses **(cf. Hebrews 11:24-29)**
   1. Refused power, wealth, and sinful pleasure to suffer for God’s purposes, and gain a reward far greater **(vv. 24-26):**
      1. Son of Pharaoh’s daughter – very possible that Moses was the next in line to the throne of Egypt. (World power)
      2. Suffering over sinful pleasure – imagine the access Moses had to whatever he wanted.
      3. Esteemed the reward of heaven greater than the treasures in Egypt.
   2. Forsook Egypt without fearing the king’s wrath, because he saw God **(v. 27).** (Exodus said he was afraid – Hebrews says his fear was overcome by his faith in God – not fearing in the sense of letting his fear debilitate him)
   3. He kept the Passover **(v. 28).**
      1. This concluded the plagues brought upon Egypt by God for the deliverance of the Jews.
      2. Kept an ordinance of God by faith, and received deliverance because of it – led the nation in this observance.
   4. Led the Exodus, and the people through the Red sea **(v. 29).**
      1. ***“Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever” (Exodus 14:13).***
      2. While God delivered them, and all of Israel exhibited faith in the Exodus, Moses led them in such faith.
   5. Conclusion of Moses’ life – **cf. Deuteronomy 34:10-12**
   6. Moses was a great man of faith, but it started with his parents 🡪
7. The Faith of Moses’ Parents
   1. The section in Hebrews 11 about Moses’ faith starts with the faith of his parents.
   2. **Hebrews 11:23** – They hid Moses by faith.
      1. Not afraid of king’s command:
         1. **Exodus 1:8-10, 22** – Out of fear of the Israelite’s number, he commanded that the male babies to be put to death.
         2. **Exodus 2:1-10** – Moses’ mother (and father) (Amram and Jochebed) hid him. (Because they saw he was beautiful.)
            1. He was hidden 3 months.
            2. Then, by faith in God, they put him in the river.
            3. Jochebed ended up being his nurse, and Moses became the son of Pharaoh’s daughter.
            4. When he came of age – **cf. Hebrews 11:24-26**
         3. Result – Moses became the instrument of God’s deliverance of Israel out of Egypt – **cf. Genesis 50:24**
         4. **However, consider further the faith of Moses’ parents, and the implications from scripture about what they did 🡪**
   3. **NOTE THE REASON THEY HID MOSES – THE WAY THEY VIEWED HIM:**
      1. **Exodus 2:2; Hebrews 11:23** – they saw he was beautiful.
      2. More than simply the thought of a cute, beautiful baby in appearance…
      3. Stephen’s defense/sermon – **Acts 7:20** – well pleasing to God.
         1. ***Asteios* (fair, comely, pleasing) *ho* (to) *theos* (God).**
         2. ***“was exceeding fair” (KJV; ASV***)
            1. “Greek: “was fair to God”; properly rendered, “was very handsome.” The word “God” in the Greek here in accordance with the Hebrew usage, by which anything that is “very handsome, lofty, or grand” is thus designated.” (Albert Barnes’ Notes on the Bible, Acts 7:20)
         3. More literal translation – ***“lovely in the sight of God” (NASB); “well pleasing to God” (NKJV); “beautiful in God’s sight” (ESV)***
            1. “Stephen intimates that God is with Moses from the very beginning…’Fair or beautiful to God’ is not a Hebraistic superlative (R. 671); the dative is ethical and has a distinct personal flavor (R. 537)….Note how Stephen connects Moses with God even when Moses was still a babe.” (Lenski’s Commentary on the New Testament, Acts 7:20)
            2. **Realized he was a gift FROM GOD.**
            3. **Realized (to some degree – specific or general) THAT HE WAS BORN FOR A PURPOSE OF GOD.**

Regardless of what degree they thought this, they were right.

Moses went on to be used heavily by God 🡪

* + - 1. NOTE SOME WAYS MOSES ACTED, AND THE THOUGHTS BEHIND SUCH ACTIONS – **Acts 7:21-25** – Raised as Pharaoh’s daughter, and educated in the Egyptian schools. He then visited his brethren, and thought God was to use him to deliver the Israelites.
         1. Knew Hebrews were his brethren.
         2. Knew of the prophesied deliverance, and thought God would use himself. (Joseph said***, “God will surely visit you, and bring you out” Gen. 50:24***)
      2. He knew other things as well **(Hebrews 11:24-27):**
         1. Thought spiritual riches to be greater than those in Egypt – LOOKED TO THE REWARD – HEAVEN.
         2. Had some knowledge of the Christ – reproach of Christ – Seed promise to Abraham – through Israel.
         3. Saw Him who is invisible – the true God – Jehovah – not Egyptian gods.
    1. **Moses did not learn these things from his Egyptian education. Then from where?**
    2. **Part of the faith of Moses’ parents was that they taught Moses as they were able when he was young:**
       1. **Exodus 2:7-10** – Miriam (Moses’ sister) got Jochebed (Moses’ mother) as his nurse. He was raised as Pharaoh’s daughter’s son only after ***“THE CHILD GREW.”***
       2. **Not only did they hide him because they saw he was “beautiful to God,” but THEY TAUGHT HIM CONCERNING THE GOD OF THE HEBREWS.**
       3. (concerning the events of Moses’ survival) “But the origin of the scheme was most probably owing to a divine suggestion, as its success was due to an overruling Providence, who not only preserved the child's life, but provided for his being trained in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Hence it is said to have been done by faith (Heb 11:23), either in the general promise of deliverance, or some special revelation made to Amram and Jochebed--and in this view, the pious couple gave a beautiful example of a firm reliance on the word of God, united with an active use of the most suitable means…His age when removed to the palace is not stated; but he was old enough to be well instructed in the principles of the true religion; and those early impressions, deepened by the power of divine grace, were never forgotten or effaced.” (Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown Commentary, Exodus 2:6-10)
       4. THEY SAW MOSES AS A GIFT FROM GOD, AND FOR THE SERVICE OF GOD, AND TAUGHT HIM ACCORDINGLY TO THE BEST OF THEIR ABILITY.
       5. “The most striking thing about his education was the power and influence of his mother. Amidst all the wealth, sin, and culture of the court life and the learned of the day, Moses was held in the mighty power of religious training and love of devout parents. There could hardly be a more concrete illustration of the influence and power of godly parents over the life of a sincere and talented child…All that wealth and learning had to offer could not throttle nor thwart the faithful training of the home. If parents were worried about the danger of public education – as well they may be – perhaps they should look to their own home teaching of their child first. The time and place to save a child must be from crib to college ‘in the home’ under the daily teaching by word and example of devout parents who love Christ and know His word.” (McGarvey, op. cit., p. 85)

1. **Parents should learn from the faith of Moses’ parents. 🡪**
2. Parents and Their Children
3. Parents Must Understand the Child’s Maker, and Purpose
   1. Children are given by God:
      1. **Psalm 127:3-5** – A blessing from the Lord.
      2. **Psalm 139:13-16** – Made carefully by God according to plan.
         1. **Cf. vv. 1-12** – speak of the omniscience and omnipresence of God.
         2. These verses relate such to the creation by God of the Psalmist (David).
         3. **God made him, and knew what he was to be before anyone ever saw him.**
            1. Not in the sense of individual predestination. (Calvinism)
            2. All our days are not specifically planned out for us by God.
            3. **HOWEVER, WE ARE CAREFULLY, AND THOUGHTFULLY MADE BY GOD ACCORDING TO HIS PLAN FOR A SPECIFIC PURPOSE 🡪**
      3. **Psalm 8:3-5 –** Man is not like the rest of God’s creation.
         1. The Psalmist observes the wonders of creation, and then considers how mindful of him God is.
         2. What is so special about man that God cares for him so?
         3. **Cf. Job 7:17-18** – God sets His heart on man, and attends to him regularly.
      4. **Genesis 1:26** – Made in the image of God.
      5. **Psalm 100** – God made us, and He made us for His glory.
         1. **Psalm 19:1** – the creation declares God’s glory.
         2. **Man is the pinnacle of God’s creation – we were created to glorify Him 🡪**
   2. The purpose of any child is to grow into a servant of God:
      1. **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14** – The whole of man is to serve God acceptably. All will be judged according to this.
      2. Your child’s purpose is not:
         1. To be a great athlete.
         2. To be a good hunter.
         3. Anything regarding recreational activity.
         4. To be a successful worker, or business man/woman.
         5. Cure diseases, or accomplish any other great feat.
         6. To bring the success you failed to bring yourself.
         7. Etc.
      3. **YOUR CHILD WAS MADE BY GOD, IS “BEAUTIFUL TO GOD,” AND IS FOR GOD’S GLORY.**
   3. **Every parent should view their children in this regard, and recognize the grave task they have been given by God as that child’s parent 🡪**
4. Parents Must Understand Their Own Grave Appointment
   1. **Proverbs 22:6** – There is a way children are supposed to go, and parents have the responsibility of training them in that way.
      1. **Cf. Jeremiah 10:23; Proverbs 14:12** – That way is not the decision of the parents.
      2. That way has been disclosed by God – Fear Him and keep His commandments.
   2. **Ephesians 6:4** – Fathers are supposed to teach and train their children in the way of the Lord.
   3. **Proverbs 31:26-30** – Mothers fear the Lord, and watch over the household with such in mind.
   4. Parents should take this Divine appointment seriously, and look to teach their children about God always – **Deuteronomy 6:4-9, 20, 24-25** – They should instill in their children the love of God, and explain to them it is for their good!
   5. **Parents must never forget the purpose of their children, and they must make constant effort to raise them in the understanding of such!**

**Conclusion**

1. Moses’ parents hid him by faith because they saw he was beautiful to God (**cf. Hebrews 11:23; Acts 7:20).** Because of this they took advantage of the opportunity to teach him about God. Because of their diligence, in part, Moses grew up to be a mighty man of faith.
2. All parents should view their children in this way.
3. Children are a gift from God, and they are for God’s glory.
4. **Parents have the grave responsibility of raising them accordingly.**