

“She Fears The LORD”

05/12/2019

Scripture: II Timothy 1:1-10

Who am I? I'm selfless and self-sacrificing. I'm caring, but cautious. I'm faithful and forgiving. I'm decisive and determined. I'm supportive and steady. I'm prayer-filled and patient. I'm persistent, but not relentless. I'm both tired and tireless. I'm hard-working and hospitable. I'm welcoming and wise. I'm elegant and virtuous. I'm a sweet-spirited, eager servant. Who am I? I am a mother. Twenty-four adjectives to describe the one who raised you and the one who's raising you.

Now, here's a word from a Mom. “When my daughter was two, she refused to hold my hand when crossing the street. Then we saw a baby squirrel that hadn't made it all the way across and was sadly flattened in the middle of the road. She asked what happened and I replied “He didn't hold his mommy's hand” -- worked like a charm ... [Found on www.boredpanda.com “50 Mom Memes That Will Make You Laugh So Hard It Will Wake up Your Kids” by Mindaugas].

The youngest of Nancy Edison's seven children was Thomas Alva Edison. Although some stories about his mother's virtues were most likely exaggerated, we do know that rather than give up on his education, Nancy Edison decided to homeschool her son after his teacher deemed him "addled" (i.e. unable to think clearly). Edison, who may just have been dyslexic (in a time before this learning disorder had been studied or understood), said of her: “My mother was the making of me. She was so true, so sure of me; and I felt I had something to live for, someone I must not

disappoint.” [Found on www.mentalfloss.com “25 Of History's Greatest Moms” by Suzanna Raga May 8, 2016].

Today we honor our moms. And we do so by thanking them; by sending cards and flowers, gifts, sermons, doing the dishes; etc. Thank you to all you mothers for your willingness to make the rest of us productive, content, and happy.

So, for Mother's Day this year, I wanted to give you a glimpse of a successful mother. Here's what she did. She found a pink rubber pig and set it on the table for their mealtimes. And here were Mom's rules.

1. If you burp, or make other inappropriate bodily noises, you get the Pig!
2. Every time you have a sharp tone or rude words, you get the Pig!
3. If you chew with your mouth open, or...try to throw food into somebody else's mouth while it's open, you get the PIG!
4. Napkin in your lap, not on top of your sister's head or else, PIG!
5. Rocking in your chair, getting out of your chair, falling out of your chair, PIG!
6. The pig will move from person to person as laws are broken.
7. Whoever ends up with the pig at the end of dinner does everybody's dishes.

I would love to have been at that dinner table every night. I found this in an article titled “A Humorous Approach to Teaching Table Manners” by Allison Hendrix [June 8, 2013 on <http://www.thehouseofhendrix.com>].

Just remember “*A merry heart doeth good like medicine.*” — Proverbs 17:22.

Throughout Scripture you will find a surprisingly large number of mothers, mothers-in-law, and women with motherly traits. You'll also find some who were mothers, but

not so motherly. Actually there are about 150 references to specific mothers in the Bible.

Today's mother for Mother's Day 2019 is the mother of Moses. [Show slide of Moses' mother]. Does anyone here know the name of Moses' mother? GTFR

Her story is found in Exodus. Please open your Bible with me to Exodus chapter two. Please find with me Exodus 2:1 *"And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took to wife a daughter of Levi. (2) And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months. (3) And when she could no longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes [a papyrus box], and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid it in the flags [reeds] by the river's brink.*

(4) And his sister stood afar off, to wit [know] what would be done to him. (5) And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself at the river; and her maidens walked along by the river's side; and when she saw the ark [box] among the flags [reeds], she sent her maid to fetch it. (6) And when she had opened it, she saw the child: and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, this is one of the Hebrews' children.

(7) Then said his sister to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee? (8) And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother. (9) And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages. And the women took the child, and nursed it.

(10) And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, because I drew him out of the water."

Notice again verse eight. Exodus 2:8 *"And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother. (9) And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages. And the women took the child, and nursed it."*

It's impossible to miss the hand of God at work upon this mother and her three month old son.

And, did you notice that this entire section is as much about Moses' mother as it is about Moses? And did you notice that she left unnamed? Oh, by the way, Pharaoh's daughter also goes unnamed. Then, how *do* we know the name of the mother of Moses? Look with me at Exodus 6:20 *"And Amram took him Jochebed his father's sister to wife; and she bare him Aaron and Moses: and the years of the life of Amram were an hundred and thirty and seven years."*

Moses' father was Amram. And his mother's name is Jochebed. What a name! Her name means "Jehovah is glory." Today's mother for Mother's Day is Jochebed.

I've titled today's sermon "She Fears the LORD." Shall we pray?

There are plenty of good motherly characteristics. But this one rides very close to the top. "She fears the LORD." Proverbs 31:30 *"...a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised."*

I have no idea who wrote this poem. But, it's a gem.

In nineteen hundred sixty-six

I happened on a girl,

And spent two years a-pondering

The value of that pearl.

She has a face and has a heart

All full of love and filling,

And so I sold my singleness

All fifty years, God willing.

And I have never once looked back

For fear of what I missed.

If ever God was good to me

It was the wedding kiss.

Four years and happy were the first

Without a child to bless,

And so we cultivated joy
And fields of faithfulness.
Then, like a mighty “Let there be!”
From Genesis page one,
Another soul was born on earth,
And we beheld a son.
But I had eyes for something more,
To watch God make another:
Out of a girl, my college pearl,
I watched him make a mother.
A kind of revelation this,
Just as the ancients say:
How much of Christ there is to see
In her maternal way!
Eight years and two more happy sons
All priceless to the minute,
Are like an unrolled, open scroll
With God’s own message in it:
“Charm is deceitful, beauty vain,
Though all the world has gazed,
But when a woman fears the Lord
She will be truly praised.”

I think if there’s something that really inspires us, it’s
when you are around someone who fears the LORD.

Now, of all the qualities that strike you about people,
something, maybe one or two things will usually stand out.
Wouldn’t it be wonderful if it could be said of the ladies at
EBC that what stands out is that you “fear the LORD”? For
myself, I am glad beyond all gladness that God gave me a
woman who fears the LORD.

The Bible is clear on this idea that when a woman fears
the LORD, she shall be praised.

Proverbs 31:30 “...a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be
praised.”

The word “fear” has a lot in it. But, basically, it means
“awe, reverence, and holy respect.”

To fear God is to begin to walk the road to understanding
and wisdom. We’re told in the Bible to serve the LORD with
fear. Psalm 2:11 “*Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with
trembling.*”

But there’s something more to fear. And it has to do with
your eyesight. To fear the LORD is to see Him in His
exalted position as LORD and Creator. And, it’s also an
ability to see yourself in a low position as it relates to God.
To fear the LORD is to take a humble position before the
Holy Sovereign of the universe.

Now, did you know that the LORD delights in people
who fear Him? Psalm 147:11 “*The Lord taketh pleasure in them
that fear him ...*”

And one more thing. Did you know that the counsel of
the LORD comes to those who fear God? Psalm 25:14 “*The
secret [the counsel] of the Lord is with them that fear him; and he will
shew them his covenant.*”

When you fear God, you have the right amount of fear of
Him while at the same time having the right amount of
respect for Him. And, when you fear God, you run towards
Him, not away from Him.

In his sermon on “Fearing the LORD,” Pastor John
Piper tells about a time when his children were small and
they visited a family who had a dog, a very large dog; a very
large scary dog; one whose bark was ferocious. And, just
being around this dog instilled fear in you. And this dog as
tall as their littlest boy.

After being in the house a short while, everyone decided
to go outside to the deck. And the instruction given to Pastor
Piper’s children was “Don’t run from him. He’ll chase you
down.”

Everything and everyone was just fine until it came time
to leave. And, as the family moved towards the car, the very

large dog began to bark and approached the little boy. But, instead of stopping. Instead of petting the dog, the little boy began to run toward the car. Much more barking; much more growling; much more running. And much more fear. The little boy was scared to death.

The point is “fearing the LORD means coming close to the LORD and finding His love and enjoying Him; drawing on mercy and goodness. But running from God is definitely a very scary thing.

To fear God means to have a proper respect. And if you choose to fear God, you will be enabled to live a happy, productive, and satisfying life. But, run from Him and you will find yourself in danger. [Found on www.desiringgod.org “A Woman Who Fears the LORD Is to Be Praised” by Pastor John Piper].

Dietrich Bonhoeffer once wrote, “That is the first commandment, the entire gospel. ‘Fear God’—instead of the many things which you fear.” [Found on <https://relevant-magazine.com> “Why Fear Is Essential to Faith” by Casey Hobbs, August 24, 2012].

See with me today a story about a woman named Jochebed. She is one who feared the LORD. Let’s see how.

Now, immediately the Bible lets us in on who she is. She’s a daughter of Levi; verse one. Both she and her husband Amram were of the house of Levi? Levi, we know, had just three sons, Gershom, Kohath, and Merari. So, both of Moses’ parents were one generation removed from Levi. And the Levites, as you know, would become the designated carriers of the Tabernacle furniture, the same Tabernacle built under the leadership of Moses (although they did not know this).

So Jochebed marries a Levite. She has three children; Aaron, Miriam, and, her youngest, Moses. And Moses, it turns out, was a handsome little baby; verse two. Exodus 2:2

“And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months.”

Here in the King James it sounds like, if he hadn’t been a “goodly” child, she might have not “hid him three months” or even saved his life. But, that’s not true.

He was “pleasant to the sight,” cute. Apparently there have been lots of newborns that were not pleasant to the sight. Some people say that all babies go through an ugly-baby phase. But the Hebrew word here in Exodus might just mean he was a happy, easy-going little baby.

Now, how does Jochebed’s life teach us what it means to fear the LORD?

First, to fear God means, among other things, to have confidence in Him. It’s really the beginning of understanding. And what better place to begin your understanding than to know that the One Who created your birth circumstances.

So, let me remind you about circumstances. God is the One Who, according to His wisdom, set *you* in the home in which you were born. And the same thing holds true for your children. You were part of the circumstances in which they became part of the human race. God sovereignly placed you in your home.

Now, what were the circumstances into which Moses was born? Jochebed did not live in easy times. Do you know what the first chapter of Exodus is all about? Too many Jews. That was the circumstance in which she lived.

There were so many, in fact, that Pharaoh began to be fearful of them. Look back at Exodus 1:9 *“And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we: (10) Come on, let us deal wisely with them; lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that, when there falleth out any war, they join also unto our enemies,*

and fight against us, and so get them up out of the land. (11) Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pitahom and

Raamses. (12) But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel.”

It was anything but a pleasant world into which Moses was born. But, would you agree with me that God creates our family circumstances according to His wisdom? And would you agree with me that fearing the LORD is having confidence in Him even if you lived in fifteenth century Egypt?

Now look at verse 15. Exodus 1:15 *“And the king of Egypt spake to the Hebrew midwives, of which the name of the one was Shiphrab, and the name of the other Puah: (16) And he said, When ye do the office of a midwife to the Hebrew women, and see them upon the stools; if it be a son, then ye shall kill him: but if it be a daughter, then she shall live.*

*(17) **But the midwives feared God**, and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive. (18) And the king of Egypt called for the midwives, and said unto them, Why have ye done this thing, and have saved the men children alive?*

(19) And the midwives said unto Pharaoh, because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are lively, and are delivered ere the midwives come in unto them. (20) Therefore God dealt well with the midwives: and the people multiplied, and waxed [grew] very mighty.”

Who created the circumstances of your birth? Who allowed you to be born in the home in which you were born? Who’s the true and living God Whose in charge over Egypt and over the Pharaoh’s of Egypt?

Do you believe that God brought your children into the world exactly when He chose to do so? If so, your faith is rooted in your fear of the LORD. It’s an expression of your respect for your Creator.

Faith, not fear; that’s God’s plan. It’s always been His plan. It’s faith that pleases Him most. As proof, here’s how the New Testament views this story. Hebrews 11:23 *“By faith*

Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.”

Faith is confidence in God. Here is the faith of Jochebed and Amram. They hid Moses. Think about the type of faith Jochebed must have had to do what she did. Think about this woman’s motherly love for her son. Think about how unsettling it must have been to wake up each day and wonder if someone is going to discover that she has a little Jewish baby in her home.

You see, her confidence was in the LORD. Folks, you need faith especially when it comes to your children. Parenting children is a daunting task; one we can’t do very well apart from faith. And when we trust God with our children we are revealing that we fear the LORD. Jochebed’s fear of the LORD was evident in her faith.

First, to fear God is to have confidence in Him.

Second, to fear God is to humbly submit your children to Him. Regarding your relationship to the LORD, are you relying on Him for the future of your sons and daughters? Are you relying on Him for their successes and their failures? And if you’re submitted to Him, have you submitted your children to Him?

We’ve got five children; one’s already in Heaven. And the oldest is forty-one. But do you think we are no longer able to submit ourselves to God on their behalf?

Jochebed was submitted to the LORD; so much so that she did all of the following: she kept her son alive even though Pharaoh said all the Jewish baby boys should be thrown into the Nile. She planned the best she knew how for her son. No, she didn’t know the future. All she knew was that Pharaoh’s daughter washed at the river’s edge each day. And she came up with a plan to save her son’s life. So she humbly submitted herself and her child to the will of God.

Ladies, Moms, those of you who fear the LORD; give to Him all that is precious to you; especially your sons and daughters. Your children are His gifts. If they are precious in *your* sight, believe me, they are precious in *His* sight. Submit those precious ones to the LORD; at every age and at every stage of their lives.

Now, some of you; most of us, were given our children for seventeen or eighteen years. And some only have them a short time. But, if you believe that God engineered the circumstances for those children to come into the world; don't you also believe that you can submit them to Him when they go out into the world? That's what a mother of a three month old child did.

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Third, to fear God is to pray and to look to Him for counsel.

Can you imagine a mother who doesn't pray? Especially a woman who fears the LORD? Especially a woman who has children? Pray for them when they're in the womb. Pray for them when they're in the cradle. Pray for them when they are in your home and pray for them when you send them off to another home.

Think about Sarah praying for a son. Think about Hannah praying for a son. Think about Rebekah coming to the LORD for a son. Think about Rachel asking God for a son. Think about Mary, the mother of Jesus, praying for a child.

And when you find time, read the story of the mother of John Newton, the slave trader who came to Christ after a storm at sea and became a Pastor. And when you find time, read the story of Hudson Taylor's parents who faithfully prayed for him. It was when he was a teenager that he came

to a real crises of his faith while his Mom was praying for him.

But here's one story that helps you see the heart of Hudson Taylor's praying mother. "My beloved, now sainted mother, had come over to Liverpool to see me off. Never shall I forget that day, nor how she went with me into the cabin that was to be my home for nearly six long months. With a mother's loving hand she smoothed the little bed. She sat by my side and joined in the last hymn we should sing together before parting. We knelt down and she prayed—the last mother's prayer I was to hear before leaving for China. Then notice was given that we must separate, and we had to say good-bye, never expecting to meet on earth again.

For my sake she restrained her feelings as much as possible. We parted, and she went ashore giving me her blessing. I stood alone on deck, and she followed the ship as we moved toward the dock gates. As we passed through the gates and the separation really commenced, never shall I forget the cry of anguish wrung from that mother's heart. It went through me like a knife. I never knew so fully, until then, what "God so loved the world" meant. And I am quite sure my precious mother learned more of the love of God for the perishing in that one hour than in all her life before."

Hudson Taylor was to spend fifty-one years in China reaching Chinese for the LORD. [Found on www.challies.com "The Power of a Praying Mother" by Tim Challies, April 1, 2017].

You know, Jochebed could have waited for an Egyptian soldier or policeman to come to her home and, finding a baby boy, might very well have taken him and made sure he was thrown into the Nile. You see, Jochebed had to have looked to the LORD for counsel.

"What should I do LORD?" is the prayer of heart from a woman who fears the LORD. Keep your heart open to Him. And, folks, isn't the LORD able to give you an awareness of

what you need to do next? Surely Jochebed must have discussed this with Amram. And she came up with the most ingenious idea ever. Make a box with some papyrus reeds. Daub it with tar and pitch. Put the baby in the basket and send it down the river right in front of the Pharaoh's daughter. Surely she's got to have the heart of compassion."

And, folks, when you look to the LORD for His counsel, you likely will have to take some risks.

It's the calling of a parent to always keep the LORD before your eyes. But, it's always His calling for you to keep your eyes on the heart of your children. Jochebed had her daughter watch to see what would happen to her son; verse four. Exodus 2:4 "*And his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him.*"

Maybe you can't see your sons or your daughters after you've submitted them to the LORD. But you can have someone else watch them on your behalf, when circumstances don't allow you to be there personally.

Why is all this important? The reason is simple. God chooses our lineage. And whatever that home situation is, we need to have constant confidence in the LORD. We need to submit both ourselves and our children to Him and we need a constant vigil over our hearts to be willing to receive His counsel. Psalms 25:14 "*The secret [the counsel] of the Lord is with them that fear him ...*"

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And Exodus 2:5-9 tells us that she gets her son back and raises him until he's a young boy. She then, again, in an act of faith and while fearing the LORD, she takes him to the palace and returns him to Pharaoh's daughter. God always writes the last chapter, doesn't He?

When a mother fears the LORD, she's able to entrust her children to the LORD; no matter what.

Do you believe God is able to take care of your children? Or, do you worry about them? Most of us think that a worrisome mother is a good thing. But it's not. And here's why. You can't trust very well when you choose worry over trust. And you can worry very well when you choose trust over worry. They're somewhat self-contradictory, aren't they? Worry is not the quality of a woman who fears the LORD.

Jochebed is proof. And God will always honor His child when we act in faith. By the way, who here thinks faith came easily to Jochebed? It didn't. And it doesn't today either.

What was she doing? She may have been simply committing his life to God; just turning him over to God's watch care. She may have thought she might never see him again.

So, last, what does a story about Jochebed tell us about the LORD Jesus Christ? Just this. Just like Jochebed loved her son and was willing to completely submit him to someone else's benefit, so God, the Father love His Son so much that He was willing to surrender Him to this earth and then to the Cross for your benefit and for mine.

The life story of Jochebed is a life story of God's love for you and me. He so loved the world that He gave us His Only Begotten Son that whoever believes in Him will be eternally secure.

Folks, let the life of a woman who feared the LORD persuade you that God's ways are much, much better than your ways and my ways. Let the LORD have charge of the very inmost things of your heart. He will write the last chapter. But along the way your life will be made more and more into the likeness of Jesus.

Is this what you want? This is what He wants. Shall we pray?

Now you may be here today and not be among those who know the LORD and are willing to submit themselves to Him. As far as godly things are concerned, you've not had any true interest in them, thus far.

But, all that can change this morning. God's way for you begins when you stop insisting that your sins and your ways are the right way.

Today is the day to begin to see yourself as God sees you, a sinner who is destined for the judgment to come. And to see yourself as someone who has been so loved by God that He sent His only begotten Son here to be your Savior.

Today, folks, is Mother's Day. But it's also the day of salvation. Why would you not repent and receive Christ today as your Savior and LORD. "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth on Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life."

1. Christ came here to become the Substitute for your sin. 2. He came here to live His life through you. Your sins became His sins. He took your sins on His body and paid the penalty for those sins. Why? Because love is what wins your heart and moves us into the condition of blessedness with God.

What can you do about your sins?

- "I Repent" = I change my mind about God, Christ, my sin, and God's free gift of salvation.
- "I Believe" = I simply trust the Lord Jesus Christ alone as the One Who paid the entire penalty for my sins. And in believing, I make Him Lord over my entire life.

Today, will you receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your LORD and Savior?

And for those who already belong to the LORD Jesus by faith in Him, are you surrendering your entire life to Him? Is it an everyday surrender? If not, why not?

Please turn with me in your Hymnal to #