

Legacy of Faith

Exodus 2:1-10; Hebrews 11:23-28

Pastor Richard Yu

June 17, 2018

During pre-marital counseling I usually ask about how the couple's parents approached the different aspects of marriage, such as their roles, methods of conflict resolution, approach to finances, and how they make decisions. This is because the values of parents are often passed down to their children. The parents' behavior influences the children's conduct. And the most precious value you can pass on to children is faith in God through Jesus Christ.

Today's passage talks about Moses' faith and how it was shaped by that of his parents. First, Moses demonstrates his faith through solidarity with God's people (Hebrews 11:24-26). As soon as he became old enough to make his own decisions, Moses chose to reject his privileged status in Pharaoh's household in order to identify with God's people, who were slaves. He displayed the same humility as Christ, who gave up power and privilege, and humbled himself to nothing in order to identify with His people. Likely Moses' sense of identity was instilled at a young age, when his mother taught him the history of his people while she was nursing him for Pharaoh's daughter. Second, Moses kept his eyes fixed on God (v. 27). He left the security of Egypt for the insecurity of the Exodus. He left the visible wealth and abundance for the as yet unseen land promised by God, just as Abraham by faith left Haran for Canaan in Genesis 12. Both Abraham and Moses endured and persevered, setting their eyes on the hope of God's promise, with a firm faith that God would keep His word. Third, Moses showed unreserved trust in God's word by instituting the Passover (v. 28). He faithfully followed God's instruction, and trusted that death would pass over those who were marked as God's people, with the blood of the lamb.

But preceding all the description of Moses' faith is a description of the faith of his parents in v. 23. By faith they hid him. It suggests that his parents were the origin of Moses' faith. They had faith to discern that Moses was no ordinary child, and to not be afraid of Pharaoh. In Exodus 1 we learn that Pharaoh ordered that Israelite boys must be thrown into the Nile after birth. But Moses' mother, with full consent of his father, hid him for 3 months. Moses' parents both had faith, which is reflected in their names. His father was Amram, meaning friend of Yahweh, and his mother was called Jochebed, meaning Yahweh's glory. This faith is seen first in their motivation for saving Moses. They saw that he was a "fine" child (Exodus 2:1-2). The word used

is *ki tob*, meaning beautiful, special, or truly good. It's more than a physical description of beauty. It's the same word God used to describe the goodness of His creation in Genesis 1. Moses' parents had faith enough to discern that God's favor was on Moses, and that he had special plans for him. Second, they demonstrated faith in how they tried to save Moses (vv. 3-4). They placed him on the Nile in order to save him rather than kill him. They put him in a basket, not knowing what would happen, but trusting that God would deliver him to safety. And the word used for the basket is *tebah*, which is the same word used to describe Noah's ark. Just like God saved the remnant of the human race by saving Noah, God saved His people by saving Moses in this ark. Third, we see how God turned Moses' parents' act of faith into an amazing deliverance for Israel. Pharaoh wanted to kill Moses, but Moses ended up being adopted into Pharaoh's household. Pharaoh wanted to drown Israelite boys, but Pharaoh's army ended up drowning, and Egypt's firstborn ended up dying. Despite the might of Egypt, by God's power Israel flourished. And Moses led the people through faith in God. But he was just a shadow of the ultimate deliverer, Jesus Christ. Like Moses, Jesus was born to be the Savior. He too was rescued from a murderous king, grew up in Egypt, started His ministry late in life, wandered the wilderness, and delivered the new Law on the mountain. But Jesus is better, because He is without sin, and He is fully God. So we see this simply act of faith by Moses' parents had a lasting legacy.

How do we as parents leave a legacy of faith? We can start by seeing and treating our children as God's special creation, entrusted to us to nurture. Children are like arrows, which we must aim and fire so that they meet their target destination. But the bow is every blessing of God's grace given to us in order to guide our children in His path. We must teach and love our children while fully trusting in God to help them meet their purpose. Second, we must practice what we profess as an example to our children. We must constantly choose to trust God and live according to His commands. Finally, we must remember to remain faithful with the full knowledge that God has all things under His control, and that He can work in the lives of our children through us, in ways that we cannot foresee. We must trust that God will not let our labor be in vain.