

Remnant Life Church
November 15, 2020
The Importance of Purpose
Exodus 20:12

The 10 commandments, given by God to Moses at Mt. Sinai, are divided into 2 segments or tables

- The first four deal with our relationship with God
- The last four deal with our relationships with other people
- In the middle of those, the fifth commandment deals with a specific relationship unique to the other two sets
 - And it is the only one that carries an additional promise with it

Ex. 20:12 - "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you."

Some mothers in the Bible get a lot of attention

- Eve, who is called the mother of humanity
- Sarah, the mother of Isaac
- Rachel, the mother of Joseph
- Elizabeth, the mother of J the B
- Mary, the mother of Jesus

But there are two mothers in the Bible who receive very little attention

- One you know very little about, other than who her son was, for only a little is written about her
 - **Ex. 6:20** – a family genealogy
 - **Num. 26:59** – part of a census of the people following a plague of God's judgment that killed 24,000 Israelites
 - Yet she acted in a way that set the course in motion to free a nation
 - She defied the law of the King but honored God
- The other is often vilified but not by her own doing
 - She was summoned by someone she could not defy
 - She became the mother of a man who was perhaps the wisest, most powerful, and richest man who ever lived - all by God's hand.

1. **Jochebed** – the mother of Moses

- a. Living in the time of the Hebrews slavery in Egypt
 - i. The Hebrew nation spent approximately 430 years in Egypt
 - ii. The first half in relative prosperity thanks to Joseph and the Pharaohs who remembered his place of authority
 - iii. The time of Joseph is approx.. 1670 or so BC when the Hyksos dynasty (15th) had overtaken Northern and Middle Egypt
 1. These people were not Egyptians but Semitic tribes - descendants of Shem
 2. The Egyptians were descended from Ham

3. This would help to explain the favor Pharaoh showed Joseph's family and why as shepherds, they were given the choice land of Goshen (**Gen. 46:31-34; Gen. 47:6, 11**)
 4. The rulers of Egypt in the time of Jacob and his 12 sons would have actually been distant relatives of the Hebrews
 5. Same lineage as Abraham, Jacob's grandfather
- b. But the time of Moses birth is when the Hebrews are now slaves to the Egyptians
- i. **Ex. 1:8** says that a king came to power that did not know Joseph – a new dynasty (18th) of Egyptian pharaohs
 - ii. The Pharaoh felt that by his time, the Hebrew nation has grown too large and could pose a threat, so he ordered the death of every new-born male (**Ex. 1:9-10, 22**)
 - iii. This is the same edict given by Herod in the 2nd chapter of Matthew in an effort to kill the baby Jesus who Herod feared would one day lead the people against him (**Matt. 2:16**)
- c. When Moses was born, Jochebed was willing to give up her son, trusting that God would care for him (**Ex. 2:3**)
- i. But look what God did to ease her heartache as a blessing because of her trust and faith
 - ii. God gave him back to her as his "nurse" (**Ex. 2:7-9**)
 - iii. But then she had to give him back again (**Ex. 2:10**)
 1. She would not see him again for over 70 years
 2. But she would see him in the fullness of God's plan for his life
 3. Giving yourself to God to live fully in His will, regardless of how the circumstances might appear to you, will always impact those around you in ways you cannot imagine to His glory.

2. **Bathsheba** – the mother of Solomon

- a. The account of her life begins with an everyday event that, unbeknownst to her, would change her life forever
- b. This begins not because of what Bathsheba was doing but because of what David was not doing
- c. David was someplace that he did not belong
- d. It begins with David having been made King
 - i. God has made him a great promise
 - ii. David has prayed a great prayer of thanksgiving (**2 Sam. 2, 7**)
- e. There were times that nations went to war in that day and times they did not
 - i. The King of the land was expected to lead his people, but David sent his general instead of going himself (**2 Sam. 11**)
 - ii. One evening, he sees her bathing, sends for her, knows she is married, and yet sleeps with her anyway.
 - iii. She conceives, he attempts to frame her husband, has him killed in battle when that plan falls through, and then takes her for himself as his wife (**2 Sam. 11**)

- f. She obeyed her King, but should she have refused?
 - i. Nathan confronts David (2 Sam. 12:1-12)
 - ii. Their child is born and dies as punishment (2 Sam. 12:13-23)
 - g. I think we get our answer as to her guilt or innocence
 - i. God restores her with a son – Solomon
 - h. God restored through His mercy to a woman who lost the most precious thing a mother could lose but gave her back in abundance –
 - i. God is a God of redemption
 - i. But He is also a God of judgment regarding sin
 - i. David lived the rest of his life in a pattern of spiritual/moral failure followed by God's righteous judgment; repentance, and restoration
 - ii. God's law of morality, right, wrong, and the consequence is unavoidable (Gal. 6:7 – ...*God cannot be mocked*)
- These two women received a great measure of joy in their lives because they were part of a purpose directed by God
 - God is always in a posture to forgive, redeem, and bless – in other words to remove our sin through His mercy and grace because of His great love
 - Let me give you an example of the difference between mercy and grace...
 - You owe the bank \$150,000, cannot pay it, and now are going to jail
 - You go to the bank to try and work something out
 - They tell you that will not have to go to jail
 - That is mercy (what you deserve is withheld)
 - But then they also forgive the loan in its entirety and then make you an Executive Vice-President of the bank with all the benefits of a vehicle, corner office, paid vacation, the best health care at a salary of \$200,000 a year
 - That is grace (you are given something that you do not deserve)
 - We cannot earn, and we do not merit the grace and mercy of God, but we are required to do is confess and believe in order to be forgiven
 - **Rom. 10:9** "...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.