

Remnant Life Church

May 12, 2013

Two Mothers – One Purpose

Exodus 20:12

- **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."*

INTRO – Two mothers in the Bible who receive little attention and few accolades

- One you know very little about for only a little is written
 - 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. This is the story of a completely selfless act of faith
- b. 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 meant that the rulers of Egypt in that time would have actually been distant relatives of the Hebrews (same lineage as Abraham)
 4. 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**)
- c. The time of Moses birth is when the Hebrews are 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 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 an effort to kill the baby Jesus (**Matt. 2:16**)
- d. Jochebed is willing to give up her son trusting that God will care for him (**Ex. 2:3**)
- i. God gives him back to her as his “nurse” (**Ex. 2:7-9**)
 - ii. 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 in an everyday event that changed her life
- b. David was someone that he did not belong

- i. David has been made king, God has made him a great promise and David has prayed a great prayer of thanksgiving (2 Sam. 2, 7)
 - ii. There was a time that the nations would go to war and David sent his general instead of leading the people himself (2 Sam. 11)
 - iii. He sees her bathing, sends for her, knows she is married and yet sleeps with her anyway.
 - iv. She conceives, he attempts to frame her husband, has him killed in battle and then takes her for himself (2 Sam. 11)
- c. 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)
 - iii. God restores her with a son – Solomon
- d. God restored through His mercy to a woman who lost the most precious thing a mother could lose but gave her back in abundance – (Did she deserve to have this blessing?)
- e. God is a God of redemption
- f. 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 consequence is unavoidable (Gal. 6:7 – ...*God cannot be mocked*)

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

- We cannot earn or merit these things but we must 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.*”)
- The difference between mercy and grace...

- Owe the bank \$150,000 and now going to jail
 - I go to them to try and work something out
 - I will not have to go to jail – that's mercy (what we deserve is withheld)
- Then they also forgive the loan in its entirety and they make me President of the bank with all the perks at a salary of \$200,000 a year – that's grace (given something that I do not deserve; unmerited favor)

Through the centuries God has worked powerfully in and through mothers. **He still is today.**

- Physical mothers
- Spiritual mothers
- Emotional mothers