

Faith in Action

Part 6

“By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.” (Hebrews 11:23)

Persecution range out against the Israelites in Egypt just around the time of the birth of Moses. The Israelites were increasing in number and it seem that their increase brought some threat on the Egyptians so the king said, ⁹ ***“Look,” he said to his people, “the Israelites have become much too numerous for us. ¹⁰ Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country.” (Exodus 1:9-10)*** Some measures were taken to control the birth of the male boys among the Israelites but that measures were unsuccessful. Therefore ²² ***Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: “Every boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live.” (Exodus 1:22)*** At that period of time were this issue of the king was going on Moses was given birth as we can read below:

⁴¹ ***Now a man of the house of Levi married a Levite woman, ² and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months.” (Exodus 2:1-2)*** His parents they realized that the child they received is from God so they persevered in protecting the baby Moses. They did not follow the rule that contradict God's word, ***“We must obey God rather than men!” (Acts 5:29)*** Therefore they hid baby Moses from Pharaoh's soldiers. They did their part and took the risk to protect the child that God gave them. They showed their faith unto God by putting it into action and protect their child. They could see the good plan that God have for their child and what are the potential things that this child will do for the Lord when he will grow and become a man.

Not only that but when they could not hide him anymore, let us read what they did: ***“3 But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile.” (Exodus 2:3)*** The parents were determined to protect their child and none was willing to throw him away. The mother ***got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch*** this was to protect him from the water of the Nile. Not only that, ***“His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.” (Exodus 2:4)*** So the whole family were got involved in protecting the baby Moses. They put their faith into action and work with God to make Moses live and grow to the age that would enable him to do what God wants him to do.

In the same way, the children that God had placed in your hand and in your family is God's gift to you and you need to be responsible to protect them from the threats and the hazards around them. The influence of TV, video games, mixing with other children, the internet and the rest are all hazard that might affect and afflict our children, therefore we are called to protect them. Some would say to the parents of Moses, *‘How this little basket can protect your child?’* That is correct, it is not the basket that was coated with tar and pitch protected Moses but God Himself. In the same way it is God who would protect your children, but you need to do your part for God, and to work with God to keep your children in a healthy atmosphere.

When Moses Parents did their part, then the Lord did his part. Let us read what happened: ***“5 Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking***

along the river bank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her slave girl to get it. 6 She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. “This is one of the Hebrew babies,” she said. 7 Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, “Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?” 8 “Yes, go,” she answered. And the girl went and got the baby's mother. 9 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, “Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you.” So the woman took the baby and nursed him. 10 When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, “I drew him out of the water.” (Exodus 2:5-10) What the Lord did was beyond human thought and imagination. God use the daughter of Pharaoh to protect the baby, and his mother was rewarded for her faithfulness; her baby was kept with her and she was paid and well provided for her nursing to her baby.

The events that were around the birth of Moses were similar to the events that were around the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Let us read these events: ***“13 When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.” 14 So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, 15 where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.” 16 When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. 17 Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: 18 “A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.” (Matthew 2:13-18)*** At the time of the birth of Jesus also many children killed by King Herod, but Joseph and Mary did their part. They acted courageously and shrewdly and took heed of the warning of the Lord to protect the baby Jesus by taking him to Egypt.

The family of Moses expressed their faith unto God through actions and work with Him to protect their child: They acted...

1- They acted courageously: They were not afraid of the king's edict.

2- They acted wisely: They use a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch.

3- They acted creatively: They put a cover over the basket to protect him from crocodiles. They were in need to open it to see the child; She opened it and saw the baby (Exodus 2:6).

4- They acted shrewdly: That when his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, “Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you? (Exodus 2:7)

5- They acted humbly: His mother accepted the payment from Pharaoh Daughter, “Pharaoh's daughter said to her, “Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you.” (Exodus 2:9)

My Dear and Beloved: True faith in God should be accompanied by actions, “17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.” (James 2:17) “24 You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone.” (James 2:24) As Moses family did their part to protect their child and work with God to bring Him into the next stage of life to serve God. You are also ought to do the same to your children to protect them while they are still young from the threats around till they reach adult stage of life to serve God and do the plans that He prepared in advance for them to do as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord I commit myself and my family to work and cooperate with you to be courageous, wise, shrewd and humble in order to protect our children and raise them to the adult stage to do the plans that you had prepared for them. Lord sustain me and provide for me to do that, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.