



2025 Weekly Devotions

Week of: Sept 29th - Oct 5th

Sermon: September 28th



September 29

Proverbs 16:7

We have often talked, preached, and written about the sovereignty of God over all things. You should certainly have no problem seeing this reality in the book of Exodus and perfectly clear in chapter 2. The awful command of the Pharaoh had gone forth, as is recorded in chapter 1, that all the Hebrew baby boys born were to be killed by drowning them in the Nile River (Ex. 1:22). This horrible decree is what led to the developments recorded in the first portion of chapter 2.

It is interesting to note that somewhere close to 80 years are covered in chapter 2 alone. We know this because in Acts 7:23 we learn that Moses fled to the land of Midian when he was forty. We also know from Acts 7:30 that he was eighty when he heard the voice of God speaking from the burning bush on the mountain top. Throughout his life, the hand of God had protected him and guided him through the seemingly bad days as well as the good days.

The story begins in chapter 2 with a man named Amram from the tribe of Levi taking a woman, Jochebed, as his wife. As God would have it, she gives birth to a son. Please keep in mind that this occurred while they were living under the murderous decree of the Pharaoh. I can only imagine the turmoil that a young husband and wife must have felt being married and desirous of each other intimately, all the while knowing the danger of sexual relations should Jochebed conceive and give birth to a son. This is precisely what happens and is what leads to the next part of the story.

For three months the young parents successfully hide the baby boy but realize this is not going to work much longer. In a somewhat desperate, and I daresay hopeful decision, they put their little boy completely into the sovereign hands of God. The Bible tells us that his mother put him in a basket, covered it with tar to make it watertight, and set him in the reeds on the edge of the Nile River. Can you imagine the anguish that she and Amram must have felt in turning him loose like that? Surely, they must have prayed and leaned hard into the promises they knew God had made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. They could only watch and wait now to see what God's will was for their little boy. It would be known soon enough.

We learn that in the providence of God the daughter of the Pharaoh came down to the river at that specific time to bathe and saw the basket (v.5). The Bible says that when she saw him, she took pity on him. Why? Because God moved her heart in that direction. An absolutely amazing twist of grace is revealed next when we discover that the Pharaoh's daughter, encouraged by the baby's sister who was standing by, is led to get Jochebed to nurse the baby until he can be weaned. Can you imagine? Moses' mom is the one who actually receives her little boy back under the protection of the Pharaoh's daughter and is allowed to raise him herself. By the way, the Pharaoh's daughter actually pays her to do what she would have naturally done for free (v.9). At the proper time, his mom brought him back to Pharaoh's daughter at which time she named him Moses. This is just the beginning of the amazing protection God provided Moses and ultimately His chosen people.

September 30

Proverbs 3:5-6

The passage that I have chosen for today is one of my favorites. It is for many reasons, but among the top is that it was the late Rev. Roland Powell's reminder to Johanna and me on our wedding day to always put our complete trust in the Lord and His ways. Even when we could not understand in our own minds, we were encouraged and taught to trust Him and not ourselves. This advice based on this truth has never failed to serve us well. The passage says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your steps." It simply takes faith!

How does this fit into Exodus chapter 2? Surely it took tremendous faith for Jochebed and Amram to cast their little boy upon the waters of the Nile. I want us to ponder the truth that today, we too must cast our children, our relationships, our financial security, and our wellbeing onto the waters of the Nile. Now, let me explain a little more what I mean here. Just as it took great faith and trust in the Lord's mercy and power to protect their son, we too must believe that God will take care of all that we entrust to Him.

What would it look like for you to cast your finances upon the mercy and goodness of the Lord? It is important that you don't make this more difficult than it needs to be. All I mean is that you are to trust and obey the Word of God in how you steward and manage your resources. Where He says that you are to be generous, you must trust Him. When He says tithe, you must obey. When He says be honest and forthright and your handling of money, you must be. The same thing is true when it comes to every other area of your life. It is His Word that must direct the steps of our decision-making processes. We must be certain that we take Him at His Word and when it seems to surpass our understanding, we must rely on His understanding and trust Him.

Specifically, today I want to think about child rearing. When we are torn between raising our kids the way the world is pressing us to or raising them according to the admonition of the Lord, which way do you go? Is it more important for you to have your sons and daughters on a ball field rather than in church? Do you run your family ragged trying to be sure your kids are in everything that the other kids are doing so they don't "fall behind?" Do you waste a ridiculous amount of money because you have allowed yourself to think your kid needs the latest styles regardless of how stupid the money is you may spend to get it? All of these areas would indicate you are not raising your children God's way or in a way faithful to His Word.

The question is: Do you believe God's way is best? It will show up in your decisions. Jochebed placed her son in the arms of Jesus. Are you willing to trust Him enough to place yours in His arms? This means, are you willing to trust that if you raise your children the way God lays it out in the Bible, they will turn out just fine and even better than if you do it in your own understanding with little to no regard to discipline, to feeding their pride, and learning to be more concerned with what people think rather than God? God knows best!

October 1

Genesis 50:20

I know that we typically think of today's passage more when we face a moment that looks bad, in hopes that it will turn out good. Someone loses a job or suffers in a broken relationship. It may be a dream or plan that you had for a particular time or season, and it doesn't pan out. We often say, "What the old devil meant for evil, God means for good." This is certainly a biblically true statement.

It is found in Genesis 50:20 where Joseph is explaining to his fearful brothers that what they meant for evil so long ago, God had meant for good. It was a good that would save their family as well as the chosen people of God through the 7-year famine. Today, I want to utilize that same thought considering the Pharaoh's decree, a mother having to let her baby go, and a future that looked extremely dim.

I want you to ponder today the reality that sometimes our circumstances look grim. We would not be honest if we acted like there are no times when life is going rough, the path appears unclear, uncertain, and downright frightening. There are times when we might think that we aren't getting through this one or that this isn't going to end well. Think for a moment about what Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 1. He said, "For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death" (vv. 8-9). Don't downplay what you read there. They seriously thought they were going to die. The truth is – sometimes we do!

But, regardless of what God ordains, wills, and allows, it always works together for the good of those who love Him and are called by Him (Rom. 8:28). Back to our text from Exodus 2. Try your best not to read this from a distance. I want you to imagine being right in the middle of the heinous decree to kill the Hebrew sons. This was an attempt at population control and oppression through slavery. This was no lite matter and would affect the entire nation of Israel. When the impact of the decree hits home, a young family is faced with the reality that their son may be taken from them and killed.

What we now know in hindsight is that what the devil and the Pharaoh meant for evil, God meant for good. Moses would indeed be rescued. He would grow to maintain a relationship with his real mom and dad. He would be raised for the first forty years of his life to learn the ways of Egypt and the Pharaoh. This would all come back to be of use when God called him to return to Egypt and to literally stand before the Pharaoh. He would know the language, the customs, the lay of the land, and so much more. We could never have known what God was doing in the middle of all that mess. What we can know is that God was right smack in the middle of it. He was leading, organizing, watching over, and orchestrating the steps of so many to accomplish His amazing plan to redeem a people from slavery and to point to the reality that a Savior would come, greater than Moses, to lead His people out of sin's grip. It is hard to see in the middle of the journey but pray that God will give you eyes to see His hand at work and a heart to trust His goodness.

October 2

Hebrews 11:23

I begin today with a quote from Arthur Pink who was born in 1886 in England. He grew to be a wonderful Bible teacher. I have learned a tremendous amount from his commentary on the book of Exodus. Pink rejoiced in and often wrote about the sovereignty of God which is a subject we see often in Exodus. He had an amazing gift of understanding biblical theology and seeing Jesus foreshadowed on the pages of the Old Testament. A sample of that is seen in this quote:

"The very deliverance of Israel from Egypt furnishes a remarkably full and accurate typification of our redemption by Christ. Israel in Egypt illustrates our condition before grace saved us. Egypt symbolizes the world. Pharaoh, who knew not the Lord, who defied Him, who was the enemy of God's people, but who at the end was overthrown by God, shadows forth the great adversary, the Devil. The cruel bondage of the enslaved Hebrews pictures the tyrannical dominion of sin over its captives. The deliverer raised up by God in the person of Moses, points to the greater Deliverer, our Lord Jesus Christ. The Passover-night tells of the security of the believer beneath the sheltering blood of God's Lamb, and there are so many more such examples which all symbolize and point us to the amazing story of Jesus Christ."

Isn't that a wonderful reminder of the beautiful truths contained in this Old Testament book that might go unnoticed if not pointed out to us? This does not mean that these events weren't real or that they didn't take place. These are wonderful examples of what we often refer to as shadows or types that point to a greater reality in Christ and to God's amazing plan of redemption.

Today, as you ponder some of the twists and turns of Exodus 2, ask God to help you see the events with an eye to greater fulfillment in Christ and with the ability to see how this relates to you and me. The author of Hebrews wrote, "By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict." I mentioned some of this earlier this week, but I want to reiterate this a bit more.

Jochebed, Moses' mother, placed him in the basket in a place on the Nile River where she was confident the Pharaoh's daughter would see him. In a real sense, Moses was brought to a place of death at the hands of the Egyptians. A greater reality is that he was made secure in the basket, a little ark, which points to Noah's ark but even more important to Christ. His parents did not fear the Pharaoh's edict because they trusted God more. The passage quoted from Hebrews 11:23 reminds us that it was by faith that his parents placed him in the ark and on the river. As is always the case, once we are in the arms of Jesus, we are safe. He is our ark, our Savior, but we must come to Him by faith trusting that His life, death, and blood will keep us from the hands of evil intent on destroying us.

October 3

Acts 7:20-23; Philippians 2:13

The Bible tells us that there came a day when Moses had grown up, that he went out among his people, and looked on their burdens (Ex. 2:11). What we learn from Stephen's sermon recorded in Acts 7 by Luke was that it was God's leading that prompted him to go out to see the Israelites. Luke wrote, "When he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brothers, the children of Israel" (Acts 7:23). Who do you think put it in his heart to take those steps? This answer is of course God as He always does.

Paul wrote to the believers in Philippi that it is God who works in them, both to will and to work for His good pleasure (Phil. 2:13). Now note that in verse 12 of that same chapter we are told that often God uses human effort to achieve His perfect purposes. You see, God encourages us to do His will. So, in effect, we are the ones working to get it done, but we are working because He is sovereignly encouraging us in a particular direction. For Moses, he wakes up one day and feels like going out to look upon the Israelites. He likely had no idea that God was stirring his heart and giving him a love for the people that he would be sovereignly called to lead.

Dear friends, I hope that it doesn't bother you to ponder the fact that God sovereignly and providentially prompts you to move in particular directions to accomplish His perfect will. For me personally, I am greatly encouraged to know that He is directing my steps and ordering my day in such a way that I will have amazing, providential encounters with people with eternal significance and impact. I rejoice that my steps are influenced by God with the intent to use my life to make a difference for His glory and the good of others. I need not worry about wasting my days or fighting about the detours He takes me on. When I consider the detours are divinely orchestrated, it provides purpose to the challenges and "interruptions" to my day and my plans.

Think about Moses. He had grown up in the Pharaoh's palace as the grandson to royalty. He could never have developed a heart that cared about the Hebrew slaves apart from God's transforming work in his life. Why did he grow up the way he did with the personality and abilities that he had? It was all because God had an incredible plan. When his parents looked upon him at birth, somehow, they knew that he was beautiful. This doesn't mean they thought he was the most handsome little boy ever born. It means they somehow knew in their hearts that he was favored by God and was born with purpose.

When the Lord lays something on your heart church family, make sure that you pay attention and that you are obedient to His leading. The Bible says that the steps of a person are ordered by the Lord (Ps. 37:23). You can rest assured that the steps you take in obedience to his prompting will prove to be necessary, good, and part of a bigger picture. The Bible is replete with instances where God led people to certain places, times, and people. This truth is captured in Isaiah's words, "My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose" (Isa. 46:10). Wonderful is the truth that we get to be a part of what He is doing.

October 4

Acts 7:24-25; Philippians 1:6

I've written so much about God's sovereignty this week that I thought today I would change the focus. Moses was born with special purpose and with divine protection from conception to the end of his life. The Bible says that among men, there were none more humble than Moses (Numbers 12:3). He was highly educated and chosen by God to write the Pentateuch which is the first five books of the Bible. We can certainly draw from that the fact that he enjoyed an intimate relationship with God through which the Holy Spirit illuminated his heart and mind to write, even of things like creation, which he of course was not there to see. Moses walked with God, talked with God, and literally saw God in ways that no other man was allowed.

With all this and so much more being true about the godly man Moses, there is also the event recorded in Exodus 2 of Moses as a murderer. Even though his intentions were for the most part admirable, he still committed murder which was punishable by death. As early as Genesis 9:6 we learn that when one man sheds the blood of another man intentionally, the murderer is to pay with his own life; blood for blood. It is recorded in Exodus 2, by Moses, that he did kill an Egyptian whom he saw beating a Hebrew man. We know that he knew he had done wrong because he immediately buried (hid) the man's body in the sand (v.12).

Stephen's words on this matter are quite interesting. He adds that Moses assumed his Hebrew "brothers" would understand that God was giving them salvation (deliverance) by his hand, but they did not (Acts 7:25). I find it strange that Moses was already thinking that way because he had not yet encountered God in the burning bush nor had he been commissioned to go to Egypt to deliver them out of slavery. Obviously, God was already preparing his heart and mind for his future assignment. Regardless of what his motivation was at the time of the killing, Moses committed murder and fled Egypt because of it.

I bring this up today as a point to ponder because I want to remind you not only of God's sovereignty and providence this week, but also his mercy and grace. Every single one of us who have been called by God to salvation and thus to service, have needed mercy and grace just like Moses. No, we may not have literally killed another person in cold blood, although it is likely we have committed murder in our hearts by hating others, we have committed sins that have needed God's mercy and forgiveness.

If we had to be perfect in order to maintain the assignments God calls us to, I am afraid that none of us would finish the jobs. In fact, God called Moses after this murder had taken place. I am grateful that God understands our frailties and weaknesses and is willing to work with us. Pay close attention to the fact that when Moses fled to Midian, fearing what the Pharaoh would do to him, God took forty more years to prepare him for the work to which he would go. God uses even our failures to prepare us. Forty years dear ones to get him to be the man he would need to be for the job ahead of him. God promises then and still does today to finish the work in us which He starts (Phil. 1:6). As the old saying goes, "Our failures don't need to be final," and they never are in the merciful hands of God.

October 5

Psalm 103:12-14; Hebrews 11:24-26

Yesterday I mentioned the mercy and grace afforded Moses by God for his sins. I wanted to share this passage but didn't have the space. The Psalmist writes, "As far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust" (Ps. 103:12-14). Again, I want you to see that God is keenly aware of our frame, which means he knows our weaknesses and that we are limited by our humanity and sin nature. He knows dear ones what He is working with and what He got when He saved you and me; the same is true for Moses.

It is undoubtedly a huge understatement to say that God is always a step ahead of the rest of us. It was no coincidence that Moses, a future deliverer and mediator of the people, was born to parents from the tribe of Levi. Moses was already eligible by birth for the assignment he would be given. Only men from this tribe would be able to serve in this capacity. God is a step ahead. Then there was the forty years Moses lived in Egypt. Unbeknown to them at the time, this would prove to be of the utmost importance to his calling. The forty years in Midian prepared him to better understand the life of a shepherd and how to live off the land, which again would prove to be extremely valuable.

Event after event, God was preparing Moses for his call even while He was hearing the cries of the Israelites in bondage. As the cries of the people rose to the ears of God, they had no idea that He had been preparing the answer to their prayers for eighty years. Moses was being prepared because God, as usual, was a step ahead of everyone else. The same thing is true today dear ones, so know that God hears, is at work, and is already far more than a step ahead.

A closing thought for us to ponder today comes from Hebrews 11:24-26. There it is written that Moses exercised strong faith when he chose to be mistreated with the people of God rather than enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin in the palace of the Pharaoh. Somehow, he already knew that the persecution brought on by following Jesus would be more valuable than the wealth of Egypt. He was convinced that a reward was stored up for those who choose Christ over the temporary pleasures and allurements of this world. Think about the fact that he had spent forty years in Egypt and now forty years in Midian. This is a man who had literally tasted both worlds and knew exactly what he was giving up when He chose Christ. He did not go into this blindly or uninformed and frankly we shouldn't either.

Dear ones, are you convinced that the promises of God and the riches of life in Christ are far greater than anything this world has to offer. I am afraid that for many, the answer is still no. Our actions and our choices prove what matters most to us. Moses chose Jesus with all the challenges as he faced the oppressors in this fallen world because he knew that he would gain heaven even as he lost this world. Will you choose Christ over temporary pleasures today? Never forget that God knows what He is doing and is working out details and wonders far greater than any of us can imagine. Our part is to remain obedient and faithful as we learn to trust His goodness, His wisdom, and His timing.