

Call to Obedience #219
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Mother, it is more important that you get things **into** your child
than that you get things **for** your child.

A Letter To Mothers

By Reimar Schultze

“And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took to wife a daughter of Levi. And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months. And when she could not longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid it in the flags by the river’s brink. And his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him” (Ex. 2:1-4).

It says here of the baby Moses that because his sister watched him from afar, this baby, unknown to Pharaoh’s daughter who adopted him, was returned to his mother, Jochebed, who then raised him for the next five, six, or seven years, as scholars tell us.

The remarkable thing about Moses is that he had a mother who was able to put so much of God into him in those few years, that in the next 33 to 35 years, nothing in the household of Pharaoh, nothing evil, corrupt, or worldly, could take out of his heart what his mother, Jochebed, had sown there.

Here was a mother putting something into a little boy in the first few years of life that the world could not take out. How many mothers do we have who can raise a boy for just the first five to seven years of his life, and then turn him over to be adopted by a foreigner, having a strange religion, living in an ungodly, adulterous, or idolatrous home? How many mothers would expect that child to stay the course with all the convictions it received in the first few years of his life?

Moses’ life tells us that the first years of a child’s life, from babyhood until about the first grade, are very impressionable. If a godly mother can stay home with a child in those years, he will have a good start toward becoming an eagle saint. And how much more blessed both mother and child are or will be if the mother pursues the training of her child until he leaves home in early adulthood.

Unfortunately, more and more day-care centers are springing up all over America, centers where mothers drop off their little ones so they can work for money, allowing their child to be influenced more by a stranger than by themselves. Our government wants more and more of these centers, putting them into factories, hospitals, and office buildings, so that more mothers can go to work, abandoning to a very great degree the raising of their children.

Let me ask you, mothers, which is more important to you: to raise a boy or a girl that will impact his or her own world, or the whole world for good unto righteousness, or to have the money to provide that boy or girl with their own room, a bicycle at age six, an automobile at 16, and a college education at 18?

Mothers, which is more important: that you work to give your child all the material advantages that most children in America have today, or that you stay close to him at home, permanently influencing him to live for God? Do not sell yourselves out to the god of mammon by blessing your child with material possessions when God’s divine call upon your life is to bless him with your daily, spiritual influence.

A mother must have the vision for the raising of eagle saints: “...they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint” (Is. 40:31).

Little eagles, called ‘eaglets’, stay with the mother and father and are sheltered from all outside influences until they have wings to fly in order to face the world on their own. They eat no one else’s

food, they have no contact with other birds, they go nowhere until their wings are strong enough to fly, to face the storms of life.

Jochebed was a full time mother. By the time Moses was seven years old, she had instilled in him the godly character needed to resist the spirit of the world in his later, adult life.

Few mothers today succeed in building this kind of godly character into their children, for they give in to the pressures of worldly expectations, only to harvest a worldly spirit for them and their little ones.

Let us consider some things that caused Moses to keep what Jochebed gave him and that Pharaoh's household could not take out of him the rest of his life.

First of all, I'm thoroughly convinced that Jochebed was a woman of prayer. Knowing that she might lose her son in just a very short time, and because of the suffering inflicted upon the Hebrews by the Egyptian people, she was a woman who understood that without God's help, all would be lost. Daily, she agonized in prayer for her son. These prayers, as well as her praises for God's mercies, got deep into the fibers of the soul of Moses from the time he was a little suckling to the time he left that little shack in the land of Goshen.

I visited with a gentleman who runs a short-wave radio station reaching all around the world with the Gospel. He said, "The most influential thing in my life that caused me to walk with God was the sound of my mother's voice coming out of the prayer closet each day."

I believe that there is, perhaps, nothing so impressionable upon a small child as the earnest petitions of a mother who lives her life in the fear of God. My friend, because of his mother's prayers and petitions, Moses never forgot throughout his life, even in the house of Pharaoh, that he was called of God and that he had to answer to God.

I believe the second thing that Moses' mother did was to never allow her son to get away with disobedience. Moses, as a little boy, was taught to respect all authority. The book of Romans tells us that all authority is ordained of God. Moses was taught to obey all authority, even those who would treat him unjustly. He most likely was taught not to complain nor to find fault with authority, and he was taught not to run to someone and say, "I was treated unfairly and unjustly. Come and help me."

Had Moses not learned to obey unconditionally all authority figures in those first five to seven years, he would not have made it from a shack in Goshen, from a place of slavery, to the palace in the land of Egypt to become the Savior of Israel!

As you read through the Bible, you find that all great men of God learned early in life to obey even when not treated fairly. Through the suffering of being under an unjust taskmaster, they put their roots deep down into humility in order to be thoroughly refined for the Master's use. Even Jesus had to learn to suffer injustice after injustice, and he never complained. In fact, he was perfected through the things that he suffered. How is your child going to be perfected if you don't teach him to suffer injustices with a sweet, humble, and courageous spirit?

I am grieved when I hear of children coming home from school, saying, "My teacher corrected me for something I didn't do," and then for mother or father to run to school to reprimand the school teacher. (We all know that very rarely do teachers punish children without due cause.)

Dear parents, you grieve the Holy Spirit very much when you contend with a teacher. A child must learn to suffer injustice in order to build character, to be refined, and to eventually be used of God. Even as Jesus came into the world to suffer and die, so we are born again as God's children to suffer and to die to the Self-life so that we might triumph in the long run.

So, do not pamper your children. Someday, when your child is grown, he will be treated unjustly. He may be fired from a job for no good cause. Will he then be able to run to mother or father? My friend, children have to learn to accept unjust treatment because the world is not a just world. They must learn early on that the world is not fair, but that God is good. As soon as we master this lesson, we will come to great peace with that reality.

Another reason why a parent should, as a rule, never take the side of a child against authority, whether it is a school teacher, a youth counselor, a pastor, or a supervisor at work, is because most probably, the child deserves the correction, the punishment, or the chastisement.

My mother was smart enough to know that, when I was a boy (before my salvation) and was punished for whispering in the classroom, though I may not have been guilty at that time, I deserved the punishment because she knew that I had in all probability, whispered many, many times before without getting caught.

Dear ones, all of us must realize that our righteousness is as filthy rags, and if God were to administer justice altogether in our lives, we would receive many, many spankings and chastisements for things done and said, and attitudes expressed in the past

So, mothers, teach your children, as Jochebed did, to submit to authority--right or wrong, and if there is something that is unfairly or immorally done by a person in authority, go to that person alone and, in a kind, gentle way, talk things over. (Keep in mind, there are cases when our children must be protected from harm.) In general, we should never give our children the impression that authorities are to be questioned or defied, for Paul says that all authority is ordained of God, mostly for justice, and often for injustice, to bring us to the feet of Jesus.

Jochebed, through her praying, put something wonderful into the soul of Moses. She taught him to obey authority, never to complain when treated unjustly, and, finally, she taught him in his first five to seven years not to aggravate authority through a defiant spirit.

How many children have provoked their teachers and youth workers by their actions, attitudes, and responses to the point where the teacher, or authority figure, loses control? My friend, this is just as wicked as down-right disobedience.

Moses would never have been elevated in the Egyptian court had his mother not taught him all these things.

The sole justification for a woman giving birth to a child is that she raise it for the glory of God, and this can only be done, in most cases, if she gives motherhood her full-time attention and energies.

Yes, mothers, many of you have to choose between giving your child a room of his own, with a bicycle at age six, a car at 16, and a college education at 18, or living in a shack and instilling in that child the things of eternity. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Pr. 22:6). This is not a part-time job but a full time, divine vocation that, if properly exercised, will never be regretted for all eternity.

In my own case, when my mother died, after 50 years of widowhood, she left nothing material behind for me except her Bible. But what she put into my heart, nothing in the world can take away.