

5-Day Devotional: Overlooked but Not Forgotten

Day 1: The Courage to Fear God More Than Man

Reading: Exodus 1:15-21

Devotional: Shiphrah and Puah were ordinary midwives facing an impossible choice: obey the most powerful ruler in the world or obey God. Their story teaches us that true courage doesn't come from the absence of fear, but from fearing God more than we fear any earthly authority. When we make God the weightiest voice in our lives, we find freedom from the tyranny of people-pleasing and the paralysis of human approval. Today, consider what "Pharaohs" demand your allegiance—cultural pressures, workplace expectations, or social norms that contradict God's ways. Like these brave women, you can choose to honor God above all, trusting that He sees your faithfulness even when the world doesn't.

Reflection Question: What situation in your life requires you to choose between pleasing God and pleasing people?

Day 2: Shrewd for Life, Not Death

Reading: Matthew 10:16-20

Devotional: Jesus' instruction to be "wise as serpents and innocent as doves" echoes the strategy of the Hebrew midwives who outsmarted Pharaoh's evil plan. God doesn't call us to be naive or passive in the face of evil; He invites us to be creative, strategic, and wise in resisting darkness and bringing life. The midwives used their intelligence not for deception that destroys, but for protection that preserves. In your sphere of influence—whether as a parent, employee, friend, or neighbor—you have opportunities to be shrewd for the sake of life. This might mean having difficult conversations, setting healthy boundaries, or finding creative solutions to protect the vulnerable. God partners with those who use their gifts wisely for His purposes.

Reflection Question: Where might God be calling you to be more strategic and creative in resisting evil and bringing life?

Day 3: Mothers as Life-Bringers

Reading: Genesis 3:20; Exodus 2:1-10

Devotional: Adam named his wife Eve because she would be "the mother of all living"—a beautiful picture of how motherhood reflects God's life-giving nature. Moses' mother and Pharaoh's daughter both defied death's command to preserve life. Whether through physical

motherhood, spiritual mentoring, adoption, or fostering, women throughout Scripture partner with God in His mission to bring and sustain life. This calling isn't limited to biological mothers; it extends to all who nurture, protect, and invest in the next generation. The "gigantic task" of motherhood—in all its forms—mirrors God's own heart to see people flourish. Today, honor the life-bringers in your world, and consider how you might participate in God's life-giving work, whatever your role or season.

Reflection Question: Who has been a spiritual mother or life-bringer in your journey, and how can you express gratitude to them?

Day 4: God Sees the Overlooked

Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Luke 1:46-55

Devotional: Pharaoh dismissed women as inconsequential, but God chose them as His primary agents of deliverance. Throughout Scripture, God consistently elevates those the world overlooks—shepherds, slaves, foreigners, and the young. David was the forgotten youngest son; Mary was a teenage girl in an insignificant town. God's pattern is clear: He doesn't measure value by worldly standards of power, wealth, or status. If you've ever felt invisible, undervalued, or dismissed, know that God sees you completely. Your background, your limitations, your ordinariness—none of these disqualify you from being used powerfully by God. In fact, He specializes in partnering with the overlooked to accomplish the extraordinary. You are not invisible to the God who knows your name.

Reflection Question: In what area of life do you feel overlooked, and how does knowing God sees you change your perspective?

Day 5: The Seed of the Woman Crushes the Serpent

Reading: Genesis 3:14-15; Romans 16:17-20; Revelation 12:1-11

Devotional: The story that began with a serpent deceiving a woman finds its climax in a woman bearing the Savior who crushes the serpent's head. From Eve's first son to Mary's only Son, God's redemptive plan centered on the promised "seed of the woman." Jesus didn't just resist evil like Moses; He defeated it completely through His death and resurrection. And remarkably, God shares this victory with us—Paul promises that God will "crush Satan under your feet." As followers of Jesus, we're not merely spectators of His triumph; we're participants in His ongoing work to overcome evil and bring eternal life. The courage of the Hebrew midwives, the sacrifice of Moses' mother, and Mary's obedient faith all point to this ultimate truth: God wins, and He invites you to share in His victory.

Reflection Question: How does knowing that God will crush Satan under your feet empower you to resist evil and bring life in your daily circumstances?

1. How does the story of the Hebrew midwives challenge our understanding of courage, and in what areas of your life might God be calling you to fear Him more than the 'Pharaohs' you face?
2. The sermon describes mothers as bringing life and resisting evil in their children. How does this reframe your understanding of motherhood beyond cultural stereotypes, and how can non-mothers participate in this life-giving work?
3. Pharaoh's daughter showed compassion that directly contradicted her father's evil commands. What does her story teach us about the cost of doing what is right when it conflicts with family loyalty or cultural expectations?
4. The text emphasizes that God uses 'overlooked' people to accomplish His purposes. Who are the overlooked people in your community, and how might God be inviting you to see them as He does?
5. Jesus calls us to be 'as shrewd as serpents but as gentle as doves.' What does biblical shrewdness look like in practice, and how is it different from worldly manipulation or deception?
6. The sermon contrasts how the Bible reports the treatment of women versus how God treats women. How does this distinction help us read difficult passages in Scripture, and what does it reveal about God's character?
7. Moses' mother saw that her son was 'good' and gave him away, while Eve saw the fruit was 'good' and took it for herself. What does this contrast teach us about discernment and surrender in our relationship with God?
8. The connection between Genesis 3 and Exodus shows a continuous thread of women partnering with God against the serpent. How does seeing this larger narrative shape your understanding of your own role in God's redemptive story?

9. Paul writes that God will crush Satan under our feet, sharing His victory with us. What does it mean practically to be God's partner in crushing evil, and where do you see opportunities to resist evil and bring life in your everyday context?

10. The sermon mentions that faithfulness is not always passive and sometimes requires creative courage. Can you identify a situation where passive obedience might actually enable evil, and what would active, shrewd faithfulness look like instead?