

I. SERMON SCRIPTURE

Preparing the Way for Hope

Exodus 1:15-2:15 (ESV)

Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, “When you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women and see them on the birth stool, if it is a son, you shall kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live.” But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live. So the king of Egypt called the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this, and let the male children live?” The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.” So God dealt well with the midwives. And the people multiplied and grew very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall cast into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live.”

Now a man from the house of Levi went and took as his wife a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer, she took for him a basket made of bulrushes and daubed it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child in it and placed it among the reeds by the river bank. And his sister stood at a distance to know what would be done to him. Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her young women walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her servant woman, and she took it. When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby was crying. She took pity on him and said, “This is one of the Hebrews’ children.” Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and call you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?”

And Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Go.” So the girl went and called the child’s mother. And Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages.” So the woman took the child and nursed him. When the child grew older, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, “Because,” she said, “I drew him out of the water.”

One day, when Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and looked on their burdens, and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his people. He looked this way and that, and seeing no one, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. When he went out the next day, behold, two Hebrews were struggling together. And he said to the man in the wrong, "Why do you strike your companion?" He answered, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid, and thought, "Surely the thing is known." When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh and stayed in the land of Midian. And he sat down by a well.

II. GROUP DISCUSSION

1) Read the first two chapters of Exodus. Where are we at in the story of the Israelites? What has happened before this Book? What is happening in the first 2 chapters?

2) Why is the narrative important when discovering and understanding moral principles and instructions?

3) How would an Israelite in Egypt define hopelessness, captivity and rescue, and how does that help us to understand sin and salvation today?

4) When is our Hope finally delivered and where does it find its conclusion? (think of the journey of rescue from captivity, to rescue from the inward captivity, to rescue to God's presence free from the struggle of any captivity) Justification, Sanctification, and Glorification. Egypt, to Desert, to Tabernacle

5) How do you feel about God using people as subjects and not objects? That He accomplishes His perfect and good will through acts of obedience, and acts of evil, and that He destroys evil by using evil.

6) Consider then that ALL suffering...ALL pain...ALL evil is NEVER without purpose. God uses all things to accomplish His will. How does that make our own pain redemptive without giving us specific answers, maybe even in our lifetime?

7) In what ways will Moses give us an image of the Real Redeemer?

8) Prayer and Praise