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His Wife's Name Was Jochebed

Numbers 26:59

Intro - You have never married and a friend of yours informs you that he would like for you to date a new girl who has arrived in town.

You do not like blind dates, but your friend tells you this new girl is attractive, her father is wealthy. You believe she might be interesting so you ask your friend what is her name?

He replies (Jochebed.)

Common sense tells you that no one needs to date a girl with that name.

Thousands of years ago there was a young girl named Jochebed--- A Hebrew boy found her attractive. She became the choice of his heart.

His was a wise choice---Because history demonstrated---Mother of (3 greatest leaders) in Hebrew history.

Script. Numbers 26:59---"The name of Anram's wife was Jochebed, the daughter of Levi, who was born to Levi in Egypt; and she bore to Anram: <sup>1</sup> Aaron and <sup>2</sup> Moses and their sister <sup>3</sup> Miriam."

In that one Bible text---God is teaching us important truth--- about Family --- Faith --- Future. *Stay awake*

*Numerous churches are now serving coffee after the sermon, perhaps this is to get people thoroughly awake before they drive home!*

an evangelist - meeting San Francisco - He noticed the Chinese men at each service  
on front seats. They were best prayers - singers - workers - 6 mos later returned & they  
were all Chinese men? - Pastor had turned out, full of Bedbugs -  
evangelist - When you turned those Chinese men & bedbugs out, you turned out the only living  
thing in this church!

## I. Family

Concern about deterioration of family unit.

Family has always been backbone of productive civilizations.  
Nations thrived when family was healthy. Genuine love, strength,  
courage, integrity. By-products of good family.

Chapter 26 Numbers -- A final listing or census of the elect.

People of God, as his flock, he knows his sheep --- a chapter in  
human history. They are names.

(Interesting) things in the common place. Fathers, mothers,  
children --- v. 5 --- Reuben, the eldest son; v. 15 --- the children of Gad;  
v. 19 --- sons of Judah; v. 23 --- sons of Issachar; v. 26 --- sons of  
Zebulun; v. 28 --- these are sons of Joseph; v. 34 --- sons of Manasseh;  
v. 35 --- family and sons of Ephraim; v. 38 --- family of Benjamin;  
v. 42 --- family of Dan; v. 44 --- children of Asher; v. 48 --- families  
of Naphtali; v. 57 --- these are numbered among the Levites after their  
families.

v. 59 --- In that list is Jochebed.

Moses had little contact in his early years with his Hebrew  
family.

Their influence affected his life.

Heb. 11:23---His mother Jochebed made a decision to place him in the Nile was an act of faith.

She offered him up to God, believing that God could do what she could not.

Continually prayed for him as Miriam gave daily reports concerning his activities in the house of Pharaoh.

Script. says he was not totally ignorant of his Hebrew background and was influenced in his teenage years.

Samuel a great prophet of God; Script. says faith of his mother a contributing factor in spiritual development.

Hannah---prayed earnestly for a child. Promised God---1 Samuel 1:11---"Give him to the Lord all the days of his life."

Praying so intense---Eli, priest, thought she was drunk.

Poured out her soul---Samuel became influence---Family, exerted great influence on his life.

Paul in 2 Tim. 1:5---Wrote to Timothy---"I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois, and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well."

Paul, nearing death---looked to Timothy to carry on the work of spreading the Gospel.

As Paul reflected on the life of Timothy, the wise missionary saw what a tremendous influence the family had played. With his solid family background, he would make a dynamic preacher.

(Moses, Samuel and Timothy) remind all of us that a godly family does have a positive influence upon the lives of God's people.

## II. Faith.

This girl Jochebed was not only from a good family, but possessed a powerful faith!

Script. Heb. 11:23---"By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's edict."

Faith mentioned here is not the faith of Moses but of his parents!

By faith they refused to give up---not even knowing what God was doing.

Jochebed---confused---distressed---knowing that her child would be killed.

Probably she asked God, why?

She did not understand God's plan; she put her child into God's will. God's plan was he would be rescued from the Nile and reared in Pharaoh's house.

We wonder what Hebrew name Jochebed would have given Moses, wonder how many sleepless nights she spent pondering the fact that her son was in the palace, that she could never go and embrace him.

However, by faith she had said, "I refuse to quit." When she had reached the (end of her rope)--she tied a knot and hung on.

Jochebed reminds us that faith involves more than believing a lot of facts---it involves obedience, trust, willingness not to give up when God's will is unknown. Faith is trusting God in midst of suffering heartache---her faith brought God's power into Moses' life and world history was changed.

Dr. Robert Schuller--Garden Grove Community Church, California---  
Learned from his father that real faith never capitulates to circumstances.

One afternoon he and his father were sitting on the front porch of farm house in Iowa. All at once a dark cloud gathered---moved closer--- a rumbling sound like numerous freight trains could be heard. Out of the darkness a long, gray funnel cloud hit the ground, swirling towards the Schuller farm. The family knew the tornado was about to hit. Gathering the family, Father Schuller jumped into his car and raced away a safe

distance. From a nearby hill they watched the tornado pass. Just as quickly as it appeared, the tornado was gone.

Although they knew the storm had been destructive, they were not prepared for what they found on return to the farm.

Schuller's farm had consisted of nine buildings---not one was left!

The moans of dying cattle pierced the air---Robert Schuller's prize horse was dead with a 14' long 2 x 4 in his middle.

Elder Schuller had worked 26 years trying to pay off the mortgage.

With tears in his eyes he looked at his wife and said Jennie, it's all gone, it's all gone! 26 years and it's all gone in 10 minutes.

Elder Schuller got out of his car and walked the land that was his farm. A little while later he returned to the car and in his hand was a small (plaque) that had hung in the kitchen. The words of the plaque were, "Keep looking to Jesus."

Elder Schuller decided right then that he would look to Jesus and not give up.

Most of the farmers left that area deciding not to rebuild.

With faith in God, Elder Schuller started from scratch and

within five years he had a new farm that was debt free.

He was a man who understood that faith involves trusting God and refusing to give up even when the future looks bleak.

He was made of the same stuff as Jochebed!

Because of personal problems, do you feel like quitting?

A father said to his son---never give up or quit. He told his son Robert Fulton never quit, Thomas Edison never gave up, Eli Whitney never gave up and then he mentioned Isadore McPringle.

Who is he questioned the boy.

See, said the father, you never heard of him---he gave up.

Anybody can throw up his hands in despair and quit.

When you are willing to put your faith in the Lord, he will give you strength to live victoriously in the midst of your problems.

When you reach the end of the (rope---hang on.)

### III. Future.

The plan of God can never be defeated.

The Nile River was a god of the Egyptians.

Throwing children into the river, a form of sacrifice to Egyptian deities.

From the very spot where Satan tried to hurt the Hebrews, God rescued Moses and anointed him for leadership.

The Devil intended to bring much evil upon God's people.

Rom. 8:28 states---"We know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God."

Verse, not say everything is good---God is able to bring good out of bad situation, for those who love him and will not quit.

God delivered Moses and used him for good in the midst of suffering.

Don't give up.

Japan Compound---a blind leper wanted to learn to read; however, he could not use the Braille system because leprosy had destroyed the sense of touch in his hands. Refusing to give up, he attempted to learn to read Braille with his toes, but the feeling was gone from his toes. Finally he remembered one sensitive part of his body still intact. Today he reads his Braille Bible with his tongue.



Acts 7---Religious leaders stoned Stephen, thought to put an end to Christianity.

God took that tragic act and used it to scatter the church, preaching the Gospel.

Stephen's death, great influence on Paul's conversion. Reminds us God can bring out of tragic circumstances some good.

His plans for his people are never defeated. What looks like defeat is a highway of victory.

Paul and Silas were thrown in jail for preaching the Gospel--- Acts 16.

Out of that difficult situation, God was able to work through Paul and Silas a change in the jailor's heart. The Devil intended much evil, put them in jail, God worked good.

Indestructibility of God's plan. Story of hardworking Chinese farmer awoke one morning to discover that his only horse had escaped from the corral. His neighbor came to see him and said "your horse got loose! What bad luck!"

The farmer responded, "How do you know it's bad luck?" Sure enough, the next day the horse returned leading 12 other horses into the corral. Instead of having one horse, the farmer had 13.

His (neighbor) returned and said, "What good luck! You now have 13 horses!"

Farmer said, "How do you know it's good luck?"

Following day the old man's son attempted to ride one of the new horses, but he fell and broke his leg. The (neighbor) returned and said what bad luck!

Farmer said, how do you know it's bad luck?

Next day warlord came through countryside and conscripted all the able bodied young men for his army. Farmer's son was left because of his broken leg.

Yes, what looks like a tragedy to us just might be a blessing from God.

When human circumstances are difficult, God has the opportunity to work miracles.

Jochebed was a Hebrew woman who put her faith in God.

She reminds us that when we have reached the end of our rope, it is time to (tie a knot and hang on).