

Ebenezer Baptist Church

Small Group Discussion

Mother's Day

May 14, 2023, 2023

Sermon Title: When Only One Thing Matters

Speaker: Reverend Rapheal G Warnock, Ph.D.

Exodus 2:1 Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, ² and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. ³ But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket^[a] for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. ⁴ His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. ⁵ Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. ⁶ She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said. ⁷ Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?" ⁸ "Yes, go," she answered. So the girl went and got the baby's mother. ⁹ Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him. ¹⁰ When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."

Sermon Summary:

Moses the great deliverer, leader and lawgiver of the ancient Hebrew people owes his life to the collaborative efforts of his mother, his mid-wives, his big sister, and the philanthropy of Pharaoh's daughter. These women came together through the natural propensity to protect one's family, a recognition of social evils being waged against the Hebrew children and seeing the godly favor on Moses' life as a "Fine Child", needing to be drawn from the crocodile infested Nile River. He was born to lead his people, but it was his mother's defiance of the tyrannical reign of an insecure Pharaoh that put him on the river towards success. *When Only One Thing Matters*, like Moses' mother we will: 1) Protect That Which Is Precious; 2) Play Your Position; 3) Pursue Unusual Partnerships; and 4) Pull Until God Provides. The sermon helps us to see the unifying hand of God orchestrating relationships among Moses' mother and the other amazing women who knowingly and unknowingly facilitated God's plan for his life. In conclusion, Reverend Warnock draws on the story of Oeola McCarty a former Washerwoman at the University of Mississippi, who saved and donated over \$150,000 to the school's scholarship fund. Similar to Moses' mother, Oeola McCarty inspires us to reimagine God's often unnoticed, behind the scenes work, washing our lives, paying our debts doing our dirty works.

Sermon Points:

- 1) Protect That Which Is Precious
 - We must protect all children
 - We need more than "thoughts and prayers" we need a plan
 - Moses' mother hides him until she turned prayers into a plan (a bassinet into a boat)
- 2) Play Your Position
 - Mom and Big Sister played roles to cover Moses
 - Our children will be covered
 - Mom upstream/Sister downstream
- 3) Pursue Unusual Partnerships
 - "Shall I call a nurse"? – mom becomes his nanny
 - God will use your enemies to bless you
 - God will pay you to do what you want to do for free
- 4) Pull Until God Provides
 - Pharaoh's daughter pulled him out
 - His mom, the mid-wives, his sister, and Pharaoh's daughter
 - We should "reimagine" God – as an Old Washer Woman

Discussion Questions:

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- 1) What are the limits when it comes to protecting children?
- 2) How do you feel about Moses' mom putting him in the river?
- 3) Can you share a time in which your enemies unknowing became your benefactors? Explain.
- 4) Are you comfortable with pursuing "unusual partnerships"?
- 5) What's the significance of Pharoah's daughter naming Moses? Is this the cost of an unusual partnership?
- 6) How does the sermon help you see God in new ways?