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The Wave | Hebrews 11:23

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

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Hey, people. Good to see you're all here. It was good. See you're still here. All right, well, as is my fashion, it would be remiss if I didn't begin with a very important message for you. Just a couple of jokes about our big guy, Moses, this week.

So, those of you who are new or you just got here or you've been with us forever and you forgot because you checked out last week, we're going through the call of faith from Hebrews 11. Hopefully, you didn't get it was Matt's sermon. All right, my man, Matt, right back there.

So, we're going through the Hebrews Hall of Faith, and we're talking about people who are heroes of faith. Unlikely a lot of them. And today, we're starting our pathway to Moses. You guys know who Moses is? Good.

So, you might know a little bit about Moses, but do you know why he crossed the Red Sea? To go great, great. Wasn't even funny at all. It moved. Okay. So, speaking of hair, what hairstyle did Moses get at the hairdresser's? A middle parting? Where's the drummer when they need it? I know.

So finally, where is medicine first mentioned in the Bible? Do you guys know? There was so much healing throughout the Bible, but it was when God gave Moses those two tablets. Your faces alone are disappointing. You're like, how do they let these people up here? Eric's face was like, cute.

Anyway, well, so thanks. How did Moses make his coffee? I don't know. He brews it right. I saw that one. Maybe prophetically, I didn't share it so that you could.

Anyway, so like they said, I'm Sophia Foutres, one of the reverends and ordained ministers here and elders. Glad to be with you today, and it's good to see all your faces. So, when you think about the story of Moses, what comes to mind? You can just shout it out. Okay. Yeah. Yep, okay. Good.

So, you guys know Moses, that's good. But who the one person that you didn't mention, which was the most important part of Moses, his story, I would say, is his mom and his dad. And that's actually who we're going to talk about today. So, the Hall of Faith continues. But we're going to talk about his parents.

Friedrich Nietzsche. I don't know how to say last names, I won't try. Nietzsche. Nietzsche, thank you very much, says those who have a why to live for can bear almost any how. Hebrews 11:23 says this by faith, Moses, his parents hit him for three months after he was born, because they saw that he was no ordinary, or beautiful child. And they were not afraid of the king's edict.

So just a little background on this story, we'll go to Exodus 2:1-10. And this is what we're this is the story that we're talking about was the birth of Moses and his parents and what they did and why they were so great. So, if you'd like you can turn to your Bibles in Exodus 2, if you want to buy 1-10.

The birth of Moses now a man of the tribe of Liba, Levi, married a Levite woman. Their names were Amram and Jochebed. But I added that in there because it's not in this initial text, and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. And when she saw that he was a fine child. She hid him for three months.

But when she could no longer hide him, she got a papyrus basket, which was also called an ark, the same Hebrew word that was used there. It was the same word that was used for Noah's Ark, the very vessel that would save his family after God sent a flood as the story goes for him and coated it with tar and pitch to waterproof it.

Then she placed the child and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. His sister, Miriam stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. 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 servant to get it. She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, of course, and she felt sorry for him. This is one of the Hebrews babies, Hebrew babies, she said.

Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you? Yes, go, she answered. So, the girl went and got the baby's mother. 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. When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she named him Moses saying, I drew him out of the water.

So, we have to kind of go backwards a little bit just to understand the context of what's really going on in this story. So, at this time, when Moses was being born, there was a king, his name was Pharaoh. And he was an Egyptian king in the land. And he was noticing that the Israelites at the time were becoming greater in number. And that they were becoming a very strong people grew up in the land. And he started to get afraid that they would take over his land, his people, his culture.

And he didn't want that to happen. And so, he started putting out these edicts or these decrees saying, we're going to work these people to the bone and dry them out. That didn't work. So, then he says, we're going to kill all of the babies, the, we're going to kill all of the boys by putting them and asking them to be killed. essentially saying we're going to cut off the line of the Israelites, because he didn't want them to take over.

So, he sends this edict this decree out. And he tells the midwives, which are the women who helped to do all the birthing of the babies. And they were as they were Israelites, they were Hebrews. And these women were the first heroes in this story. Not really likely heroes, because what they did was they defied the king. They said, No, we're not going to do this. But they did it in a subtle way. They were like, oh, sorry. We got there too late, and they already had the babies.

And then he was like, Okay, well, all the babies that were born, I want you to put them down the Nile. And I want you to drown them. So, Tara, terrible story. Last time I got Abraham, sacrifice sacrificing the babies. And this time I have this one. It's terrible what the edict was in the land. But there will be good that comes.

So essentially, what happens then, is these midwives they work together with Moses, his wife, I'm sorry, give me a minute. They work together with Moses's mother and father. And Moses's wife ends up giving birth to the baby. And she's able to hide him for three months until he's grown. And she has this knowing in her spirit, that he's meant for greatness, that he's supposed to do something great.

And because she has that knowing now every parent might say, Oh, my child's so beautiful. He's gonna do great things, right? That would probably be a normal reaction for a parent. But

for whatever reason, she has this knowing and she's willing to risk it all to save this little boy. She's not willing for him to just get tossed to the sea. She's not willing for him to die. So, she builds this ark for him. She's willing to risk her life for him, she's willing to say, it doesn't matter if I get killed, I'm going to save you, because I know that there's something good on your life.

And I have to be really honest, for a minute, I'm having like a, I'm panicking. And sometimes that happens. And I'm not looking for like pity or anything, but. And sometimes, if you have any panic, you know that when you're panicking, your brain starts to empty slowly. And so, I feel my brain has emptied. But you know, I, I always feared that this would happen up here. And there's a part of me that's just kind of embracing it. And knowing that it's okay.

So, I think what would be helpful is if I just kept going, and, and so, here's the reality, we're gonna get going, we're gonna move it along, and we're gonna preach. So as somebody who works really hard to hold it together, and keep it together, I'm really working hard to not do that anymore. So here you go.

So, this is me not keeping it together. And this is me just crying up here. And this is what I do now. So welcome to me. And, and everybody's gonna be alright. And so, the reality is here, kids, that everybody focuses on what Moses became. But they don't ever really remember or focus on the sacrifice and the courage that it took for this mother, to rise up for the sake of the other.

And I think that as a church, and as a people today in this world. So often we can get fixated on the big stuff. Or we can get focused on everything that we're going through all the things that we suffer all the things that happen to us, that are keeping us or whatever. And as a church, we can get really focused on ourselves and self-centered and think I'm just coming here so that you can give me something, right.

And I wonder if there's something here in this story where we look and we say, and we rise up for people who because of the decrees of the world, and the edicts of the kings of our day, they are being destroyed all over the world. And we, as the church, so often, are so easily quick to just throw out the baby, throw out the person, throw out the situation, and just say, well, it's not worth it. It's just happening to us, and we just have to let it happen. And it's just going to overtake us and we're just going to die. And it's not worth it. And maybe I'll come here and try and feel a bit feel better. And maybe I'll try and do something good, but it's not worth it. Or I'm in too much pain.

So, can you imagine his mother her and what she might have felt in that moment. But for whatever reason, she had the courage to wrap him up and say, I believe in you, and I'm going

to do something to protect you, I'm going to risk my life for the sake of you because you have a calling and a destiny, and you have something to do on this earth.

And it's not easy to do that. It's not easy to be a voice for the voiceless. It's not easy to be somebody who risks your life, your faith, your reputation for the sake of somebody else. But that's what she did. And in the end, Moses was able to do the great works. And he was able to change a generation and to save people because the wave that was meant to destroy him through that Nile was the wave that eventually lifted him higher.

And I wonder today was there ever a wave that tried to destroy you but somebody or maybe this place, right, like Brian shared Cornerstone became like a basket for Brian and helped him get down his river that life throughout him and so I wonder today are We are We people who can are we people are weird people who can do that for other people, that we won't instead be the people who just destroy people and tear them down. Or we won't just be so focused on ourselves that we have no time to think about anybody else.

So, when I was when I was in high school when I was in high school I dealt with a lot of different waves. And I heard a lot of different voices telling me that just wasn't worth it. It didn't matter it wasn't worth it. Now I'm good thanks. It just didn't matter. It wasn't worth it and in all transparency, I'm gonna pause the story. I'm just embracing what I feel is the suckiness of this moment right now. And that's okay.

But so, I tell this story and it's called the card and it's called the card. And for a lot of my teenage years, I struggled with mental health issues, struggled with my sexuality and knowing that I was probably not straight. And on the day that I thought that I would take my life in ninth grade I thought that it would be better for me to be dead and to be gay. And I know that there's others in here who felt similar feelings for various reasons and Somebody came up to me your name was Charlene. She said, God told me to write a card to you today. As I was walking around my hallway saying goodbye to people. She told me to write you this card.

And she wanted it. She said, God wanted you to know that you have a purpose for your life. And that everything that you're going through right now, you'll be okay. And that card was my basket that saved my life. And I still have that car to this day. And I took that car to the counselor's office. And I went and got help, months and months and months of help and medication, and realize that my life mattered. And I had a purpose.

And then even though the sticks in my brain, and the cultural IIDX said that I should be dead, because they were afraid of what I might do as people as a person, just in the same way that Pharaoh was afraid of what Moses might do. And what the Israelites might do. And I'll never forget that moment. And the beautiful thing of that moment is that now, I'm the one who gives

the card. I give the card now, and I say you belong here, you matter here, whether you're gay, or you're straight or whatever, it's all the same. I mean, well, it's not but it is.

Is that whatever you're saved, we always talk about what you're saved from. But I think about what was Moses saved for? What was I saved from? Sure, we talked about that all the time. That's great. But I was saved for this. I was saved, to be a voice to say, yes, it's possible that you can love God that you can love your person, that you can have hope that you can have purpose that you can set people free that that you don't have to drown in the ethics of the world.

And so, today, what I wonder is, can we be like Moses, Mom, can we be the basket makers. And maybe it's being a voice. For those suffering right now in the Middle East. Maybe it's being a voice for your neighbor, maybe it's being a voice for whatever it is that you're called to. Because I think that it can be overwhelming to think about the whole world. And it can feel overwhelming to think I can't help anything, I can't do something. And I'm overwhelmed by my problems.

But I think that we're called to just the one. It was just a mom and her baby. And a valiant act of love that opened up those floodgates. That gave us all those miraculous stories of just one little boy who had a calling. And we're all that little boy. We're all that little girl. We're all the little person in the basket that just is hoping for that chance.

And so, this morning, my challenge to us is, can we be the people who make the baskets for our neighbor, to get them safely down the shores and the waves of this earth so that they too can fulfill their purposes and their callings. And maybe today, you're somebody who needs somebody to help you get down the river. And I pray that you would feel comforted. And that cornerstone would feel like that basket, that waterproof basket that you just get that okay, I'm good. I got through another wave.

But I think that we were called and we were talking about this as elders were called to be the people who rise up and help other people rise up. Because honestly, if not like what are we doing? Are we just coming here just to feel better? And then like, we don't do anything else. We just swirl around in our own mess all the time. And I'm not minimizing your mess. But what if our mess and one of our stories become the key to somebody else? The next Martin Luther King, the next Mandela, the next whoever. We all have that power in our lives. We all have our corner of the world that we help to say you along here.

So, who's the person in your life that you need to get the card to? Wherever you are in your life, that's I think that's our goal is to be the people who have courageous faith, who aren't afraid to say the hard thing, who aren't afraid to say, I'm going to fight for you. And I'm going to

empower you so that you can know you're calling your destiny so that you can set the people free in your world that you're supposed to do that.

So, I want to just take a minute. And I want you to think about who's that person you can write that car to. And say, God has a purpose for your life, don't stop, don't give up. Don't give up, you got this. You don't know what's on the other side of that river. So, I'm just going to pray for us. And I just thank you for your grace and your compassion. But I pray that we would just be a little bit like, and have a little bit of courage, like Moses mom, so that we can rise up for the people in our corners right now.

Because they need us, and we need us. So, God, I just pray. I pray for every single one of us to be encouraged, to be empowered to go out to be a voice for the voiceless, to do the hard thing, to raise up people. And for those who feel they need that nurturing love, I pray, comfort, I pray encouragement, empowerment, I pray that we would all believe that we have a specific calling and purpose that is worth saving. And that we're here for such a time as this, to make a difference to make an impact. And to make the world just a little bit more like Jesus's love. A little bit lighter. Amen.

Rev. Dr. Tracy Saletta

It's one of those moments, I know what's going to happen. I just want to come up because a this happened to me once many, many, many years ago. And it's a difficult moment. And what you all probably know or don't know is Sophia is going to go home and this is going to stay with her this week. Because as a preacher, you just beat yourself up.

But I want to say this is you know, there were key moments in this story, that Sophia was sharing the story of the mother the story of Miriam following her brother, down the river, right? The courage of these people, Moses being this incredible savior in the image of Christ, right. But most of life are moments just like Sophia just demonstrated to us.

Most of life is when we hit those difficult panic moments. And we're and we're in front of people, or we're facing our own river, or we're facing our own wave. We're facing our own difficulty. And we have to keep going. That's what life is made of. That moment. Right? So, I loved your words. But the moment was that you pressed forward the moment.

The moment was that you felt the fear and the panic and did it anyway. That's what we're called to do. And that the message that I hear in the message that you lived was, the call that God invites us into is to feel the discomfort, feel the panic, feel the I don't want to do this feel the I just want to run out the door. Right? I want to just grab my little thing and just hightail it

out of here. Feel the you know, floor open up and cover me up. But I'm gonna do it anyway God, because you want me to do it and I'm going to be obedient.

That's what God calls us into. That's the difficulty that God calls us into. That's what I want to invite us into today. Are we willing to be a people that feel the fear and do it anyway? Are we willing to be a people that feel that this comfort and love anyway, you know, when you were saying in the middle of your sermon, you said, you know, marry him because of love and for the other, put her son in that basket? And what went through my head is that's what you're doing now. That's what you're doing now is for the other. And I could feel your discomfort the entire sermon, but you forged ahead. So good job, Sophia.