

## Thursday, October 26

Read again Exodus 1:8-2:10. Pay close attention to the women in this passage. Their actions are like cogs in a system of gears that led to Moses being saved. Jochebed, Miriam, the midwives including Shiphrah and Puah and the Egyptian Princess and her attendants worked in concert, whether they knew it or not, to save this Hebrew male child. It is important to recognize that two of the midwives were named. Any time a woman is named in our scripture is an indication of the importance of that person and the detail of their names lend credibility to the narrative.

The actions of the women were indeed courageous, but there is an unnamed force at work here. This is a story of how God works in and through human history and in individuals in specific ways. Remember the words of Jesus, "What is impossible for mortals is possible for God." (Luke 18:27) How does God work in and through you? What "impossible" things have you done, inspired and empowered by God? Meditate on these questions and write your ideas here.

## Friday, October 27

Read Exodus 1:8-2:10. What was the motivation for the She Spies? They couldn't have possibly thought that they were saving the liberator of their nation. They acted out of compassion and love and that which was truly descent and kind. Theirs was a defiance of love which can be our method of saving our world today. How can our love for humanity be a light upon the lives of countless others, many who we will never meet? Think of the non-resistant methods of Martin Luther King Jr., modeled after Mahatma Gandhi. Think of countless others who have been motivated by God's grace (unmerited love) and mercy towards humanity. Meditate on this concept of Defiance of Love and write your reflections here.

## Message Notes – October 22, 2023

### *She Spies in Egypt*\*

- I. The covert operatives of today's text are \_\_\_\_\_ women and their story is an account of how God saved a nation through their daring and enterprising actions.
  - A. These women are *she-spies*, and they rank right up there with other biblical female spies and warriors such as \_\_\_\_\_, Rahab, \_\_\_\_\_ and Jael.
  - B. Our scripture for today begins, "a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know \_\_\_\_\_" (v. 8)
    1. It has been several hundred years since Joseph's administration of Egypt's granaries saved the nation from \_\_\_\_\_.
    2. Since then, the Hebrew descendants of Joseph and his brothers had been \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. The Pharaoh, fearing that they might rise against them, turned their immigrant guests of the kingdom into \_\_\_\_\_.
    4. The crowning blow was the edict that all \_\_\_\_\_ Hebrew babies were to be killed at birth.
- II. In today's scripture, we find four major players or cohorts of players; this is a true spy \_\_\_\_\_ if you will.
  - A. First, *Jochebed* is the \_\_\_\_\_ of baby Moses.
  - B. Second is Miriam, Moses' \_\_\_\_\_.
  - C. Third, the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - D. Finally, the \_\_\_\_\_ and her attendants.

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\*Exodus 1:8-2:10

- III. What can we learn from this spy \_\_\_\_\_ narrative?
- At the risk of \_\_\_\_\_, these She Spies were all highly \_\_\_\_\_ in defense of their objective.
  - Is this a biblical authorization for \_\_\_\_\_ oppressors and persecutors? Yes!
- IV. Now granted, most of us are not called to the vocation of full-time \_\_\_\_\_.
- So how can we have a part in saving the \_\_\_\_\_?
  - How about the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_. The \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and kindness is counterintuitive.
  - What should we expect when we participate in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_?
    - The first thing is not to have \_\_\_\_\_.
    - The actions of the She Spies were grounded in \_\_\_\_\_, not expectations.
    - We should not expect to see the \_\_\_\_\_ of our labors.
  - Remember the advice of the apostle Paul: “Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your \_\_\_\_\_ is not in \_\_\_\_\_.” (1 Corinthians 15:58, NRSV).

## *Daily Devotional Guide*

The following is a daily devotional and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

### **Monday, October 23**

The message began with the explanation that this message is an introduction to a future series of message on the women of the Bible. Having spent this past summer studying *The Twelve* – the men who were chosen as Jesus’ inner circle of followers – Pastor Jack mentioned the possibility of a series of message on the courageous, loving and insightful leadership of the women in our scriptures. Think about your knowledge of our Christian

Scripture; what women have inspired you? What women in the Bible would you like to learn more about? Why not write down your thoughts and send them to Pastor Jack? ([jmannschreck@waterfordcumc.org](mailto:jmannschreck@waterfordcumc.org)) Your ideas could be a part of developing that series of messages.

### **Tuesday, October 24**

What do you remember about Joseph in our Old Testament (Hebrew) Scriptures? The story of Joseph is told in Chapters 37-50. You might have seen the play *Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Joseph was sold by his brothers to merchants traveling through Judea and then was sold to Potiphar, Captain of the Pharaoh’s Guards. To make a long story short, Joseph became the manager of the Kings granary where food was stored and saved the Egyptians from starvation. His extended family joined him in Egypt and they were “fruitful.” The Hebrew people were perceived as a threat to the Egyptians and became enslaved by them. 400 years later is where our story of Moses being saved by the She Spies begins. Think about Joseph and his people in Egypt. What modern context might provide insight in this situation of immigrants in a foreign land? What parallels can you make to today? Write your thoughts here.

### **Wednesday, October 25**

Read Exodus 1:8-2:10. What do you believe about human nature in terms of being basically good or basically evil? How did the Egyptians come to the point of enslaving a large population of immigrants? These are foundational questions as we consider the situation that was bravely confronted by the She Spies in Egypt. Consider how many regions of our own country feel threatened by immigrants. How do you feel about the opening of our borders to people from other countries and cultures? Meditate on these questions, pray for God’s wisdom and write your reflections here.