

Message Summary

God's story, in Scripture and today, is the story of faith. God's grand narrative for the whole world is played out in individual people's stories, over the long haul. Like a crockpot, it is usually a slow simmer of many ingredients that will produce just what the Lord desires for each of our lives. Thus, faithfulness in the regular routine of life is indispensable, for here God most often works to achieve His purposes. As we obey faithfully in the routine, we must also be prepared to take radical risks for His purposes.

The promise of eternal reward propels people of faith toward endurance – “whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek Him” (Heb. 11:6). We must be on our guard against settling for lesser rewards here on earth. The people of Israel needed such vision in the midst of the Egyptian captivity from which the Lord, through Moses, brought them. Though only seventy persons when they came to Egypt from Canaan, the Lord multiplied and prospered his people in Egypt (Ex. 1-2), as he had promised Abraham (Gn. 12:1-3; 15:5-6). Egypt felt threatened. Slavery was Egypt's first answer for the Israelite problem, followed later by the edict to kill all newborn baby boys (Ex. 1:22). But God used the ordinary obedience of the Hebrew midwives, refusing to obey the wicked instruction, to bring about Israel's deliverer. Moses' parents hid him for three months. When they could contain him no longer, they sent him down the Nile, only to be found and preserved by Pharaoh's daughter herself. She protected the boy, adopted him, and paid his mother to nurse and raise him! Moses then grew up the son of royalty, with all the privileges and opportunities afforded to Pharaoh's other grandchildren. Moses would later turn away the wealth, power, and prestige of his royal family to lead and deliver God's people, “choosing rather to be mistreated by the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin” (v. 25).

Amram and Jochebed, Moses' parents, obeyed God in the grit of routine, normal, everyday life. Though it lacked glamour, it did not lack significance. We can never calculate the impact of routine obedience in our family, neighborhood, workplace, or school. Within the context of the everyday, God will often call us to good risks. There is right, wholesome risk, when God is bigger than our fears. When Amram and Jochebed stepped out in faith to obey, God worked out the details of seeing the fruit of their work through. Moses himself acknowledged that his story was pointing to a much greater story, a greater prophet from the Israelite people Moses preserved (Deut. 18:15-22). God did not remain distant from our suffering, but entered into our suffering through Christ's incarnation. Like Pharaoh, Herod wanted to kill the male children, and Mary and Joseph's everyday obedience led to refuge in none other than Egypt. Christ's everyday obedience as a carpenter led to radical obedience on the cross, by which He secured eternal reward for people of faith.

WHY IT MATTERS

Digging Deeper

Stephen expounds on the Hebrews statement that Moses' parents “saw that the child was beautiful” (11:23) with the statement that “he was beautiful in God's sight” (Acts 7:20). In what sense was Moses beautiful in God's sight? How did their eyes of faith change the way they looked at their newborn child?

Verse 26 says of Moses, “He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward,” echoing Hebrews' earlier statement that “he rewards those who seek Him” (v. 6). What is the future reward to which Moses looked? How did it impact his obedience?

In what ways did Moses' life point forward to and prepare for Christ's? What does this teach us about God's working in the details of our lives?

NOW WHAT DO WE DO?

Group Discussion & Application

Use the following questions to examine what the sermon and its text mean, to apply the Word to your life, and to guide how you pray. Please note that you don't have to use all of the questions. These are just options (along with the digging deeper section) to help you frame the family/small group discussion.

1. Do you forsake eternal, heavenly rewards for fleeting earthly rewards?
2. What are the ordinary, everyday places in life where God is calling you to grow in faithfulness?
How can you better exercise ordinary obedience this week?
3. Are there any kingdom risks God is calling you to take?
4. Do you harbor any fears that prevent you from obeying God, especially in any risks he may be calling you to?
5. Are you impatient with God's long haul, "crockpot" approach to fulfilling His purposes in your life?

Prayer

- Pray for Our Church:
 - Thank God for Christ's faithfulness to enter and endure the world's affliction on our behalf, and defeating death, our greatest enemy, on the cross.
 - Pray that the Lord would give Christ Fellowship the vision to choose to be mistreated for God's purposes rather than enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin
- Pray for Our Community:
 - Pray that the Lord would give Christ Fellowship obedience in the day-to-day, ordinary, routine aspects of life, and use that everyday obedience for vast kingdom purposes.
 - Pray that the Lord would give vision for radical and risky faith in everyday obedience that would change the lives of people around us in the gospel.
- Pray for Our World:
 - Pray for Jeff and Misti Fairchild as they visit for the holidays. Pray that they would be refreshed and encouraged by their time with family and energized for their ministry as they move as full-time missionaries in January.