Series: Standing Strong

Series Text:

*Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.***1 Corinthians 16:13 (NASB)**

July 26th, A people of Conviction – Jochebed, the mother of Moses

August 2nd, A people of Courage – Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused to bow!

August 9th, A people of Constancy – Daniel’s Priority of Prayer

August 16th, A people on Mission – The Early church and the primacy of the Gospel.

**Abundant Life Church**

**Sunday, July 26th, 2020**

**Sermon #1 – A people of Conviction**

*Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.***1 Corinthians 16:13 (NASB)**

Introduction:

God’s people, the Jews, are living in the land of Egypt. After the death of Joseph, some generations go by, and the people of Egypt forgot that is was God’s people, Joseph who had delivered the entire nation from starvation and in the process made the Pharaoh’s even more wealthy than they had been before.

A new generation of leadership arose in the nation and began to see the Jews as a threat. So they made them forced labor, attempting to make their lives bitter. Even though the civil, political powers of the day were against them, they continued to prosper with large families.

Intimidated by God’s favor, the world system then began an attempt to eradicate them by having the midwives, who assisted the mothers in the birthing process, kill every male Hebrew baby. The midwives refused to do this -

**The Hebrew midwives-**

*But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt had commanded them, but let the boys live.*
**Exodus 1:17 (NASB)**

*Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, "Every son who is born you are to cast into the Nile, and every daughter you are to keep alive."*
**Exodus 1:22 (NASB)**

When Pharaoh could not force the midwives to do this he used the full power of the state to embolden any Egyptian to destroy the Hebrew boys. Apparently, any Hebrew woman with a male infant son, could have her son torn away from her by an Egyptian.

Three Women of Conviction God raised up.

1. **Jochebed, The Hebrew mother of Moses who must have given birth in secret and kept her son hidden for three months.**

*2  The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was beautiful, she hid him for three months.
3  But when she could hide him no longer, she got him a wicker basket and covered it over with tar and pitch. Then she put the child into it and set it among the reeds by the bank of the Nile.*
**Exodus 2:2-3 (NASB)**

1. **Miriam – the elder sister of Moses.**

His sister stood at a distance to find out what would happen to him.
**Exodus 2:4 (NASB)**

1. **Pharoah’s Egyptian Daughter**

5  The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the Nile, with her maidens walking alongside the Nile; and she saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid, and she brought it *to her.*
6  When she opened *it,* she saw the child, and behold, *the* boy was crying. And she had pity on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."
**Exodus 2:5-6 (NASB)**

Before there could be a Moses, there had to be these incredible women of conviction.

Each disobeyed the civil authority, choosing to see life as sacred and worthy of being saved.

Three women partnered together. It was a multi-ethnic and multi-generational women, who had no platform of privilege or power in that culture acting on the conviction that life is sacred created the environment that made it possible for a Moses to be raised up!!!

They were engaged in a battle to eradicate God’s people of faith and the entire culture was at work to destroy the people of God. The only thing that stands between destruction and the miraculous is the power of conviction. One woman did everything possible to obey God with the limitations that were imposed on her and God did the rest. He provided the circumstances that kept Moses safe, provided Pharaoh’s daughter, provided Miriam to recruit Jochebed to be his wet nurse, intercessor and trainer so that he would know he did not belong to the world but to the people of God.

***Conviction – A firmly held belief. A line you will not cross. A truth you will not compromise. A behavior you will not engage in. A way of life that you will not forsake.***

**Non-negotiables**

Opinions are a dime a dozen but there is one source for truth about what is moral, good and right. The source of truth are the scriptures of God.

16  All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17  so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.
**2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NASB)**

**To deny your children the Scriptures of God is to cast them in the river unprotected.**

The Ten commandments will not save your soul but they do lay the foundation for developing the conscience and moral growth of your children.

 You shall have no other Gods before Me

Do not make idols

(Your thoughts about God are not near as important as God’s thoughts about God)

 Do not take God’s name in vain

 Remember the Sabbath to keep it holy

 Honor your Father and Mother (the foundation of marriage, family and all successful societies)

 Do not commit murder

 Do not commit adultery

 Do not steal

 Do not lie

 Do not covet Exodus 20

We live in an age of moral relativism. It is controversial to say babies born with boy parts are boys.

Men, dressed as women, feel it is their right to enter girl’s restrooms.

It is considered controversial for a state legislature to say biological boys cannot participate in girls sporting events.

Every 2 minutes a child is violated in the Sex Trafficking Industry in the USA.

There is a push to normalize pedophilia. TED Talks.

People burning down buildings and others people property while calling it justice.

Children can be snuffed out through nine-months of pregnancy.

Politicians who want to protect the lives of the unborn are called extremist and a Governor who vetoes pro-life legislation is considered compassionate.

Greed drives a lot of business decisions.

**The Apostle’s Creed**

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son Our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into Hell; the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty;*

*from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting.*

**There is no other way to know God, except through the person of Jesus Christ.**

11  "He is the STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED by you, THE BUILDERS, *but* WHICH BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER *stone.*
12  "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."
**Acts 4:11-12 (NASB)**

*Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty. Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher.*

*He never owned a home. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put His foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself...*

*While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. While He was dying His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth – His coat. When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.*

*Twenty long centuries have come and gone, and today He is a centerpiece of the human race and leader of the column of progress.*

*I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that were ever built; all the parliaments that ever sat and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life.*

***This essay was adapted from a sermon by Dr James Allan Francis in “The Real Jesus and Other Sermons” © 1926 by the Judson Press of Philadelphia (pp 123-124 titled “Arise Sir Knight!”). If you are interested, you can read***[***the original version***](http://www.anointedlinks.com/one_solitary_life_original.html)***.***

A Conviction not lived out is a Deception.

 What you believe is completely irrelevant if it is not lived out.

Being connected with a local faith community called a church.

Serving, giving, helping and loving on other people.

Working a nursery, being a greeter, making calls to reach out to people, picking up kids and bringing them to church, cooking meals for people, praying for and with people, sharing your story of conversion with someone else, etc….

WHAT YOU DO MATTERS. Jochebed, Miriam and Pharaoh’s daughter had no idea that they were all going to play a part in preserving the life of a man who would be used of God in such an incredible way.

What Kept God’s people from being destroyed by the cruel Pharaohs?

The power of a conviction believed and kept!!!!

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