

Tough Mothers
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JOCHEBED
The Mother Who Let Go

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Preaching

First Reading ~ Exodus 1:22, 2:1-10

Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: "Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live."

There was a man from the house of Levi who had married a Levite woman, and she conceived and gave birth to a boy. When she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide the child no longer she took a papyrus basket, daubed it with bitumen and pitch, put the child in it, and placed the basket among the reeds by the banks of the Nile. The baby's sister watched from a distance to see what would happen to him.

Pharaoh's daughter came down to the Nile to bathe, while her attendants walked along the river bank. She noticed the basket among the reeds, and sent her attendant to fetch it. Opening it, she saw the baby- and how it wept! She was moved to pity, and said, "This must be one of the Hebrew's children!"

Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Do you want me to go and find a nurse for you among the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?"

"Yes, go," she answered. So the girl went and brought the baby's own mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because", she said, "I drew him out of the water."

Second Reading ~ *adapted from Wendell Berry*

It may be that when we no longer know what to do
we have come to our real work,
and that when we no longer know which way to go
we have come to our real journey.
The mind that is not baffled is not employed.
The impeded stream is the one that sings.