

Series: **Exodus: Seeing God in the Journey**  
Title: **Abandoned, Yet Adored: God Makes a Way**  
Text: Exodus 2:1-10

## Introduction

In the first days of January this year, In Ocala, Florida an infant was placed in a box and left at a fire station.

- The box had been installed at this location two years ago
- The box is called the Safe Haven Baby Box
  - Following the Safe haven National Law adopted in 1999
    - The “Baby Moses Law”
- Monica Kelsey, the founder of the Safe Haven Baby Boxes, says the boxes allow a parent in crisis to safely and anonymously surrender their infant. She herself was abandoned as a baby.
- "I used to look at my life as a curse, and now I look at it as a blessing," she told FOX 13. "That's why I do what I do. I can't change what happened to me, but I can change what can happen to others."
- Kelsey says in the five years they have been in operation, they have received over 8,000 calls to date — and they've fielded 114 calls from Florida in just the last year.
- Over 7000 abandoned nationally
- Every year infants are illegally abandoned in the U.S. In 2021, 31 babies were placed in dumpsters, found in backpacks, or discarded in other dangerous locations. 22 of these infants were found deceased.
  - 73 babies were saved by Safe Haven laws in 2021.
  - Over the past 21 years in CA alone 1341 were safely surrendered, 194 abandoned, 83 survived, 111 died

## Exodus 2:1-10

*<sup>1</sup> Now a man from the house of Levi went and took as his wife a Levite woman. <sup>2</sup> The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months. <sup>3</sup> When she could hide him no longer, she took for him a basket made of bulrushes and daubed it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child in it and placed it among the reeds by the river bank. <sup>4</sup> And his sister stood at a distance to know what would be done to him. <sup>5</sup> Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her young women walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her servant woman, and she took it. <sup>6</sup> When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby was crying. She took pity on him and said, “This is one of the Hebrews’ children.” <sup>7</sup> Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and call you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?” <sup>8</sup> And Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Go.” So the girl went and called the child’s mother. <sup>9</sup> And Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you*

*your wages.” So the woman took the child and nursed him.<sup>10</sup> When the child grew older, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, “Because,” she said, “I drew him out of the water.”*

## **GOD WATCHES OVER THE ABANDONED**

### **Historical Child abandonment**

In ancient times, a method of infanticide or at least child abandonment was to leave infants in a wild place, either to die due to hypothermia, hunger, thirst, or animal attack, or perhaps to be collected and brought up by those unable to produce their own children.

- Sargon, the illegitimate child of a priestess
- Greek Myth – Romulus and Remus
- Malformed Children of Sparta – left to the wild
- China
  - The Shuihudi text may also specify that leaving a child to die was considered to be as culpable as actively killing it. This distinction is an important one, since early Chinese texts reveal that in addition to killing unwanted newborns, parents often abandoned infants. “Not to lift it up” may be understood to mean that the parent has dispensed with the ritual lifting up of the child whereby the child is formally acknowledged as a family member. Not lifting a child, then, means leaving it unattended to die rather than actively killing it.

### **Middle Ages**

- During the Early Middle Ages in Europe, the History of European Morals (1869) by Irish historian William Lecky mentions that infant exposure was not punishable by law and was practiced on a large scale and was considered a pardonable offense.
- In the 8th century, foundling hospitals were opened in Milan, Florence and Rome, among others, to help reduce the deaths of newborns who were subjected to exposure.
- Church authorities were in charge of this social issue until the 16th century.
- The workhouses of England – Oliver Twist

### **Modern times**

- Doorsteps of churches, fire stations,

### **Safe Haven Laws, “The Baby Moses Law”**

- Statutes in the United States that decriminalize the leaving of unharmed infants with statutorily designated private persons so that the child becomes a ward of the state. All fifty states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico have enacted such statutes.

### **But it is not just infants who are abandoned**

## **Abandoned children –**

- Father's leaving
- Mother's leaving
- This leaves serious holes in the hearts of children.
- Feeling unwanted, rejected by his or her own parents
- Dealing with feelings of worthlessness that cause shame
- Self-doubt, low self-worth
- A feeling that they are unlovable – not worthy of love
- Children blame themselves
  - Unpleasant experiences can significantly alter children's perception of their relationships with others, leading to a loss of trust in people.

## **Abandoned Spouses**

- Wives leaving their husbands
- Husbands leaving their wives
- The tearing apart of two hearts that have been made one
  - The pain of this tearing is profound and destructive.
  - Depression sets in, despair takes over, despondency overwhelms.

## **Abandoned Hearts**

- In all situations of abandonment it is an abandonment of the heart
- The richness of security that someone is caring for you, walking with you, watching out for you
  - When this is crushed, it can leave any of us in a broken, untrusting, and lonely state

## **Forms of Abandonment**

### Physical abandonment

- Physical abandonment occurs when one partner leaves the marital home without any intention of returning

### Emotional abandonment

- Emotional abandonment happens when one spouse withdraws emotionally from the marriage, creating a sense of disconnection and loneliness for the other partner.

### Financial abandonment

- Financial abandonment occurs when one spouse neglects their financial obligations towards the family, such as failing to contribute to household expenses

## Substance abuse abandonment

- Substance abuse abandonment takes place when a spouse becomes consumed by substance abuse.

## Intellectual or spiritual abandonment

- Intellectual or spiritual abandonment occurs when one spouse disregards the shared values, beliefs, or goals that are important to the other partner.

## God Makes a Path for the Abandoned

*When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby was crying. She took pity on him.*

– Exodus 2:6

- A random outing
- A coincidental timing
- A divine encounter
- God watched over that Child

**Psalm 68:5** – *Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.*

**Psalm 27:10** – *For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the Lord will take me in.*

- Even if my father and mother abandon me, the LORD will hold me close.
- Being abandoned can leave you feeling as if you can't trust anyone to be there for you.
- **God says he will never leave you. He watches over you**

## God Makes a Plan for the Abandoned

God sets the plan for freedom from death.

- God causes Pharaoh's daughter to happen by.
  - He has prepared her life for this moment.
    - Maybe she has no children.
    - Maybe she alone in her family has a compassionate heart.
    - God has been at work in this young lady for this very moment.
  - God places him in the care of one who will raise him in the ways of the Egyptians.
    - He will need this in the future.
- Mom gets to care for infant.
  - He has called this mother to trust Him with the child.
    - He sees her grief at choosing to let him go.
    - He knows her desire to know this boy.
    - He understands a mother's heart.

- God places him in the care of His Hebrew mother who will raise him in the knowledge of the Hebrews.
  - He will need this in the future.
- **The encounters of your life teach you something.**
  - What you have gone through prepares you.
  - He will learn the ways of the Egyptians through the brokenness of this chapter in his young life.
  - He will learn the ways of the Hebrews through the separation that happens in this chapter in his young life.
- There are lessons God is teaching you.
- There are lessons God has taught you.

### God Makes a Purpose for the Abandoned

**Exod. 1:10** – *When the child grew older, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "Because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."*

- **The name Moses – Hebrew – To Draw Out**
  - Hebrew to draw out – usually the drawer (the one who draws out)
    - [Hebrew *Mosheh*], 'because,' she said, 'I drew him out [Hebrew *meshitihu*] of the water' (Exod. 12:10).
    - Named after her action
  - *Mosheh* and the rarely occurring Hebrew verb *mashah* (to draw out [of water]), found elsewhere only twice in the biblical text (Ps 18:16 [Hebrew Ps 18:17//2Sam 22:17]; some translations read Hebrew *mosheh* as a verb in Isa 63:11).
  - **"the drawer of his people [out of the water]"**
  - This particular etymology is problematic because Hebrew *mosheh* has an active meaning ("one who draws out" or "the drawer [from water]"). A more accurate etymology would produce the Hebrew passive form *mashuy*, referring to the baby Moses being drawn out of the water.
- **The name Moses – Egyptian – One who is Born**
  - Why would an Egyptian princess choose a Hebrew name?
  - Did this daughter of Pharaoh know Hebrew?
  - Did she consult with someone who knew Hebrew or, as some later Jewish exegetes argued, learn it herself?
  - Hard to imagine that Pharaoh's daughter would give the child a Hebrew name.
  - Not likely that Moses lived his first forty years walking and being trained in Pharaoh's house with all privileges with a Hebrew name.

- If the name is not Hebrew, then what is it?
  - name Moses linked to the Egyptian verb *ms/msi* (“to give birth”) or the related noun *ms* (“child,” “son”)
    - ...various forms of which occur in Egyptian royal and non-royal names.
    - The verb *ms* is incorporated into the royal birth names of New Kingdom pharaohs Ahmose (“the moon god is born”) and Thutmose (“Thoth is born”) as the suffix *-mose*.
  - “The one born”
  - There may have been a name given before the word Moses. And later as Moses, himself writes...chooses to not add the prefix.
  - But it is not necessary- and in fact I believe the text says clearly – she called him Moses.
  - Born of whom? – No one...
- **The name Moses – Greek - Savior**
    - Greek name Moses, *Moshe* means “savior.”
  - God uses the naming as a roadmap for this boy’s **purpose**.
    - Drawn out
    - Will draw people out
    - One born of
    - Savior

God has a purpose for you as well.

- He can save you from the brokenness and sorrow of your life.
- He can protect you in the storm of your life.
- He can set your life on a new trajectory...
  - That will bring others to safety.
  - That will bring others to salvation.
  - That will bring glory to his name.

## **WE ARE TO WATCH OVER THE ABANDONED**

### **Choose to see the abandoned.**

- Text
  - Mom chooses to save the child.
  - Sister set to watch.
  - Pharaoh’s daughter sees the basket and chooses to care for it.
- Are our eyes open to see the needs of those around us?

## **James 1:27**

*Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.*

### **Choose to secure the abandoned.**

- You watch where you can help
  - Miriam watches over the baby
- You help where you can
  - Parable of the Good Samaritan

## **Luke 10:33-34**

*<sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him.*

## **GOD WATCHES OVER YOU WITH LOVE**

### **HE GOES WITH YOU**

#### **Deut. 31:6**

*Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."*

- The Lord goes with you
- Be strong and courageous.
- Do not fear or be in dread

### **HE THINKS OF YOU**

#### **Psalm 40:17**

*As for me, I am poor and needy, but the Lord takes thought for me.  
You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God!*

- God is thinking of you
- He is your help
- When you are poor and needy

### **HE DELIVERS YOU**

#### **Colossians 1:13-14**

*<sup>13</sup> He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

When we are in darkness...

- He delivers us
- He transfers us to His kingdom

- He redeems us
- He saves us

HE ADORES YOU

**Eph. 3:17-19**

*<sup>17</sup>...—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup> may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

**Rom. 8:37-39 NLT**

*Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean He no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? ... No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow — not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below — indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Closing Prayer