

The struggle of a Hebrew Mother

Written by Lis Valle – March 15, 2010

Monologue based on Exodus 1: 11-22

Shh, my son, don't cry. Nobody can know you are alive. They would throw you into the river.

I remember when I first noticed I was pregnant. I was so happy. I needed to give my husband a baby and prove myself worthy. Of course we wanted a baby boy. The first baby HAS to be a boy. I would pray every day and every night asking the Lord for a baby boy. Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, to kill the boys when they were helping the Hebrew women in childbirth, but to let the girls live. That's when my struggle began.

I was so upset. If my baby were a boy he would honor my family but then be killed immediately. If I had a girl she would live but I would have disgraced my family. I couldn't have a girl opening me. I needed my first child to be a boy. Some days I wished to have a girl but then thought: "What if my husband doesn't love me anymore? And the rest of my family – they wouldn't look at me the same way." Some days I really wished to have a boy. I thought, "If they killed him it wouldn't be my fault. I would have fulfilled my role and I can always have other children." Then I would feel guilty for even thinking that way. What kind of mother wouldn't care for her baby's life? My thoughts and my feelings would change every day, every hour of the day, and I didn't know what to pray for anymore. Then the moment of birth came.

As the time was near my heart was pounding so loud. All the struggle in my head... wondering, will it be a boy? Will it be a girl? As I was feeling the pain in my body of the baby coming out my heart was also in pain from the fear of having a boy and then losing him in the same day. The baby came out – a boy. I closed my eyes as tight as I could and started praying. "God, let my baby live." The midwife had to kill him. She wouldn't risk disobeying the Pharaoh. I wanted to beg her, to ask her, to tell her to spare his life; but I wasn't sure if I should. Slowly I opened my eyes. She must have read my struggle in my eyes. She must have seen that I was begging for my child's life. It was a matter of seconds. But it felt like an agonizing eternity. And I noticed something in here. A resolution. A wonder, yet a firm decision. And she let him live. I felt so relieved.

Now I have to hide him. Pharaoh noticed that the newborn boys were not killed and now he ordered not only the midwives but all his people to throw into the Nile every boy that is born. Hush my boy. Your life was spared once but you are still in danger. I don't want you to go into the Nile.

Here are other pieces you could use if you were to perform this monologue during worship:

Prayer of confession:

God, forgive us for we have sinned. We have devised schemes against our enemies. We have intentionally made plans against those who we perceive as a threat.

God, forgive us for we have sinned. We have feared the powers of this world instead of fearing you. We have given in. We have engaged the easy way, joining systems of oppression and abuse of power that lead to death when we should have stood by the oppressed and defended life.

God forgive us for we have sinned. Too many times we forget that you are our light and salvation and are filled with fear. Too many times we forget that you are the stronghold of our lives and we are afraid of others, we are afraid of those in power.

Hear our prayers; let our cry come to you. Now we come to you and wait. May your forgiveness renew our strength and give courage to our hearts. In Jesus name, Amen.

Assurance of pardon:

Scripture teaches us that, *If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.* (1 John 1:9) and also, *"Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."* (Psalm 126:2-3)

Today our Creator and Sustainer, the Lord of our Salvation has done great things for us. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Let us be bold. Let us not fear. Let us fight for life. Let us rejoice, laugh, and shout of joy.