

God our Rewarder

Exodus 1: 20-21

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‘Therefore, God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and grew very mighty. And so it was, because the midwives feared God, that He provided households for them’ (Exodus 1: 20-21)

Midwives are trained to assist women in childbirth. They are expected to aid the delivery of life, not death. Thus, Pharaoh’s command to the Hebrew midwives Puah and Shiphrah demonstrates his wickedness. Due to the perceived threat of the growing Israelite population in Egypt, Pharaoh instructed the midwives to deliver newborn Hebrew daughters, but to kill newborn sons. The Israelites were already subject to great suffering through slavery. This heinous act would only compound their pain. But the Hebrew midwives feared God. With strategy and tact, they disobeyed Pharaoh’s command.

In our professional lives, we might find policies and people in power challenging our commitment to follow Christ with integrity. We have a choice: to either succumb to this pressure and compromise our faith or depend on the wisdom of God and live according to His word. Our choice to depend on God can feel risky, because of our fear of immediate consequences. But here, Moses reports their rewards from God: As the midwives preserved the newborns in their patients’ households, the Lord provided households for them.

What does it mean to walk in the fear of the Lord? To choose the path of righteousness with a pure heart. Do you feel pressured to compromise your faith at work? Seek counsel by the leading of the Holy Spirit. Earnestly and prayerfully consider what to do next and how to go about it. He will give you courage and lead you along the path of everlasting life.

Notes