

DESPERATE TO HONOR GOD

#1 – “What the Bible Says to Bree Van De Camp”

May 8, 2005

¹Now a man of the house of Levi married a Levite woman, ²and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. ³But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. ⁴His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. ⁵Then Pharaoh’s daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. ⁶She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. “This is one of the Hebrew babies,” she said. ⁷Then his sister asked Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?” ⁸“Yes, go,” she answered. And the girl went and got the baby’s mother. ⁹Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you.” So the woman took the baby and nursed him. ¹⁰When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh’s daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, “I drew him out of the water.”

¹¹One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people.

Exodus 2:1-11 TNIV

Introduction: Our culture and God’s Word offer us intriguing, often competing images of the family. America’s most popular television series at the moment is *Desperate Housewives*, a show that explores the relationships of five central female characters, each of whom is something of a caricature of basic human nature. Most interesting to me are the portraits of family presented in each drama, which reflect our culture and beg to be examined through the lens of a Biblical world view. As we begin this teaching series together, let’s ask ourselves what the Bible might have to say to Bree Van De Camp, the resident control freak of Wisteria Lane.

- I. Bree as the Cultural Matron Saint of “Smotherhood”
 - A. Bree believes that she can hold her family together by being an overfunctioning “superwoman” and “superparent.”
 - B. Bree is the dominant force in her family, and everyone else around her rebels to maintain their own identities.
 - C. For Bree, appearances are everything, and she spends her energy keeping them up.

- D. Bree is “religious,” but her brand of Christianity is more about legalistic strictures and compulsion than about a transformative personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- E. Bree is a TV Martha of sorts.

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!” “Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her. *Luke 10:38-42*

- F. Family is an idolatry for Bree, who desires control and perfection far more than to honor God.
- II. Moses’ Mother as the Biblical Matron Saint of Motherhood
 - A. Moses’ mother knew that she could not control her circumstances, but she could control her response.
 - B. Moses’ mother knew that her son was destined to serve God, and she saw herself as a steward of God’s child.
 - C. Moses’ mother knew that she had to “let Moses go” in order to yield him to God’s service.
 - D. Moses’ mother was more concerned about her son’s well-being than her own.
 - E. Moses’ mother continued to nurture Moses in every way afforded to her.
 - F. Moses’ mother imparted a heritage of faithfulness to her son.
 - G. Moses’ mother regarded family as a means of honoring and glorifying God.
- III. Jesus Warned Against the Idolatry of Family
 - A. On numerous occasions, Jesus made it clear that we could not make a religion of family, but faithfully follow Him.

“Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves a son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.
Matthew 10:37-39
 - B. Life must be about faithful realities rather than false appearances.

[Jesus said,] “Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly.” *John 7:24*

Conclusion: When we become desperate to honor God, we are freed to release illusions of perfectionism and control and become radical followers of Jesus Christ, and thus stewards of family.