

Out of Bondage onto promise

Exodus 5:1-23

- Moses after meeting and conversing with the Lord, and having his fears and doubts of whether he was the right man to lead Israel out of Egypt answered, is now ready to act on what God said. You know its one thing to hear what God has said but a whole different thing to do what God has said, Moses is now in the doing stage, as he and his brother Aaron confront Pharaoh.

V1-23

- **V1** they approach the most feared leader of their time “**Pharaoh**” the King of Egypt, but not just him, it’s the power behind him > **his throne** and all its pomp and circumstance, **his army** and their many horses and chariots, **his reputation** as god on earth, **his followers**, and the undying devotion of his people. Pharaoh wasn’t just a man to Egypt he was Egypt and all it represented, so those who lived in and around Egypt would do anything that he asked without questioning.
- This is what Moses and Aaron are up against as they come before Pharaoh with nothing more than believing God’s Word, as they ask him “**In the Name of the Lord, to let My people go**”. Also they don’t stop there, they also tell him why? So we can go into the wilderness and have a celebratory feast in the Lord’s honor, worshipping and thanking Him for all that He has done. Not only is this unthinkable for Pharaoh to let his free workforce go without any compensation, but also for them to declare their worship-allegiance to another was a crime worthy of death.
- **V2-3** Pharaoh claimed to descend from the “**sun god rah**” and thought himself to be Deity, so his response is filled with disdain and disrespect as he asks “**Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go, I do not know the Lord, nor will I let Israel go**”. Opposition is not something a believer should fear, because if we do then we will be afraid all the time.
- **3:19** God told Moses that initially Pharaoh would not let them go until He delivers them with a Mighty hand, so this should not come as a surprise to Moses as the Lord had already prepared him. What’s interesting is in **V3** Moses tried to make it easier for Pharaoh by presenting the smaller request to Pharaoh first so that it may be as easy for him as possible not to refuse. But Pharaoh’s heart was already hardened against Israel so he was determined to be disagreeable.
- **V4-9** not only does Pharaoh reject the idea of giving the Israelites three days off, he saw their requests as a waste of good working time. So to punish Israel for the request Pharaoh commanded that the Israelites would now gather their own materials (straw) in order to make the bricks and although in doing this it will take much more time for them to meet their work quota he’d still expect them to supply the same amount of bricks in the same timeframe.

- So think about this if on your job you use a computer but each day instead of it being already set up and at your desk you must assemble it and put the software on it everyday. Pharoah thought this will teach them to make any requests to me about serving or worshipping any other god but me. Its amazing how God will use the unrighteousness of humans to show His glory, Pharoah is thinking that he is going to teach Moses and Israel a lesson but all the while it will be him who will be in for a rude awakening as the Lord is about to show him exactly Who He is.
- **V10-14** in teaching lessons to disobedient man it doesn't necessarily make it easier on us, if God is teaching one of our kids a hard lesson it also affects the parent, even a friend, a boss or company, what's happening with them often will affect the workers, and here the immediate effect of the work that God is doing through Moses to affect Pharoah makes it worse for Israel and not better, so this will also be a significant test for both Moses and Israel.
- The taskmasters begin to beat Jewish foremen who were in charge of making sure the quotas were met each day and you can be sure they let them know they had Moses to thank for their hardship, the enemy knows how to get our eyes off the Lord and on someone else doesn't he. Everyone knew that what was happening is going to be for their good even though its presenting hardships now, this was necessary as the goal is for them to be free to go and follow the Lord and enter into the promise land, but right now its hard, so their not thinking about that
- **V15-19** in their trouble or hardship the children of Israel didn't turn to the Lord or even go to Moses, instead they looked to Pharoah for help. They believed tat their previous bondage was better than their current increased misery, you ever felt this way? Lord I know this is what You said, this is a lesson I need to learn, but where I was before may be a little better than where Your taking me, it definitely felt more comfortable, so can we just go back there and leave here?
- **V20-21** the people come out of their meeting with Pharoah unhappy and upset and they put the blame all on Moses, even saying "**let the lord judge between us and you**". Meaning everything was a lot better before you came talking about we need to go and find this "**Promise Land**". They thought that anything that made their immediate condition worse was not of the Lord, so they were certain that God was on their side.
- This is what happens when we look at things from a worldly perspective instead of from a spiritual perspective, once they came from out of the presence of Pharoah and not from the presence of the Lord they thought this was all the fault of Moses and Aaron. **V22-23** afterward Moses is disappointed and discouraged, but unlike the children of Israel he doesn't go to Pharoah to straighten things out he takes problems and complaints to the Lord.
- This is what all spiritual leaders must do when the going gets tough, we must take our burdens to the Lord and honestly talk with Him about the situation. **Lk 7:17-23** John was in prison awaiting to be beheaded for the gospel sake and some doubt entered into his heart, so what did he do? He sent messengers to the Lord asking "are you the One or shall he look for another" He had already baptized Jesus, told others to follow Jesus, seen the Holy Spirit come upon Jesus, leap in his mother's womb about Jesus, and still doubt had crept in, what do we do?

- He sends messengers to Jesus and he asks Him what to do, always take whatever your feeling to the Lord first and don't try and defeat it or deal with it yourself. Moses takes it to the Lord and asks Lord why have you brought trouble on this people" He'd already forgotten what God told him at the burning bush, that Pharoah would not easily let Israel go, and that it would take a Mighty Hand for him to finally agree.
- What Moses doesn't get yet and sometimes we forget, is God doesn't just want to **free us** He also wants to **transform us**, and that doesn't happen quickly or easily, as it involves countless situations that demand our trust and our surrender. In this season of testing the same old fears came crashing in on Moses "**why have you sent me**" **translation**: I'm not the right man, You made a mistake, and here is the second fear "**You haven't done what You said You'd do**".
- It was still something inside Moses that despite what God said, he still hoped it would all come rather easy, and when it doesn't here comes the fears crashing down. I believe we've all been here, and the hardest thing is to not look for the exits right! For Moses is going to be challenged **from within**, (his heart and the people he's trying to help) and **from without** (the world and the Devil) but he must remember to take these things to God and remember that just because its hard doesn't mean its not God.