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Exodus 7
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Discussion Questions

How can we apply the idea of persisting through resistance and rejection in our own lives, as Moses did in obeying the Lord?

- Resistance and rejection are not valid reasons for disobedience, and although Moses modified his methods, the mission remained the same.
- Is there an area in your life where you have faced resistance or rejection, and how did you or could you persevere through it to fulfill God's plan?

What does it mean to be a leader who considers the well-being of their followers, and why is this significant in a spiritual context?

- Christian leadership includes serving Christ and others, emphasizing humility and obedience to God's calling, while leading with love and care for others.
- How can you grow in these areas to become a better Christian leader?

What parallels can we draw between the blood of the Passover lamb in Exodus 7 and the blood of Christ?

- The sermon draws a connection between both symbols of judgment and mercy, emphasizing the importance of faith and obedience.
- How does understanding the significance of the blood of the Passover lamb deepen your appreciation of Christ's sacrifice?

How do we see God hardening Pharaoh's heart in Exodus 7 demonstrate the importance of our own choices and viewpoints?

- We discussed God's sovereignty in showing mercy and demonstrating His power through the hardening of Pharaoh's heart from Romans 9.
- What steps can you take in your life to cultivate humility and teachability, while actively seeking a deeper relationship with God?

Prayer prompts:

- Pray for courage to obey and strength to persevere when resistance is encountered.
- Pray for a heart open to God's mercy and trusting in His direction.
- Pray for wisdom and humility in leadership, and for the impact of our actions on those we lead.

Teaching Notes

Last week, we saw Pharaoh was not open to God's request through Moses to let His people go and worship.

Resistance and rejection are not valid reasons for disobedience. We may modify methods, but the mission doesn't change.

7:1 So the Lord said to Moses: “See, I have made you as God to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet.

“I have made you as God to Pharaoh”

In Moses’s humility, the Lord has lifted him up.
Christian leadership is about serving Christ and others.

2 You shall speak all that I command you. And Aaron your brother shall tell Pharaoh to send the children of Israel out of his land. 3 And I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt. 4 But Pharaoh will not heed you, so that I may lay My hand on Egypt and bring My armies *and* My people, the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgments. 5 And the Egyptians shall know that I *am* the Lord, when I stretch out My hand on Egypt and bring out the children of Israel from among them.”

The pattern:

- Moses and Aaron will speak God’s words.
- God is going to harden Pharaoh’s heart.
- He is going to multiply signs and wonders and judgments.
- They are going to know “I am the Lord” when they let them go.

Pharaoh has refused God...

...& God will solidify that decision for His own purpose.

Paul says in Romans 9:14...quoting Exodus 9:16...

What shall we say then? *Is there* unrighteousness with God? Certainly not! 15 For He says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion.” 16 So then *it is* not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy. 17 For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.” 18 Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens.

Faith is trusting despite a lack of understanding...

...because of what else you already know.

6 Then Moses and Aaron did so; just as the Lord commanded them, so they did. 7 And Moses was eighty years old and Aaron eighty-three years old when they spoke to Pharaoh.

Age is not a limit to glorify God.

Moses is not going to fight the battles, but he will lead the people.

8 Then the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, 9 “When Pharaoh speaks to you, saying, ‘Show a miracle for yourselves,’ then you shall say to Aaron, ‘Take your rod and cast *it* before Pharaoh, *and* let it become a serpent.’ ” 10 So Moses and Aaron went in

to Pharaoh, and they did so, just as the Lord commanded. And Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh and before his servants, and it became a serpent.

11 But Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers; so the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments.

12 For every man threw down his rod, and they became serpents. But Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods. **13** And Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, as the Lord had said.

This is really the first sign, a precursor to coming attractions.

Satan is a liar, a deceiver, a counterfeiter.

3 cycles of 3 plagues...

...plagues 3, 6, and 9 are similar.

The first three plagues were distressful (water to blood, frogs, gnats); the second three were painful and costly (flies, death of the livestock, boils); and the last four were dangerous and destructive (hail, locusts, darkness, and the death of the firstborn).

14 So the Lord said to Moses: "Pharaoh's heart *is* hard; he refuses to let the people go. **15** Go to Pharaoh in the morning, when he goes out to the water, and you shall stand by the river's bank to meet him; and the rod which was turned to a serpent you shall take in your hand. **16** And you shall say to him, 'The Lord God of the Hebrews has sent me to you, saying, "Let My people go, that they may serve Me in the wilderness"; but indeed, until now you would not hear! **17** Thus says the Lord: "By this you shall know that I *am* the Lord. Behold, I will strike the waters which *are* in the river with the rod that *is* in my hand, and they shall be turned to blood. **18** And the fish that *are* in the river shall die, the river shall stink, and the Egyptians will loathe to drink the water of the river." ' "

Blood speaks of both judgment or mercy.

Their faith in God and obedience to put the blood of the lamb on the door will save them at Passover.

Or a lack of faith in God & no blood will require the blood of their first born.

And of course, it is the blood of Christ that was shed for us that sets us free.

Christ has paid our price, but if we reject Him, we will pay with your own life.

19 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Take your rod and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their streams, over their rivers, over their ponds, and over all their pools of water, that they may become blood. And there shall be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in *buckets of wood* and *pitchers of stone.*' "

So this is not just the Nile it is all the water.

20 And Moses and Aaron did so, just as the Lord commanded. So he lifted up the rod and struck the waters that *were* in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants. And all the waters that *were* in the river were turned to blood. **21** The fish that *were* in the river died, the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink the water of the river. So there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.

Some would say it was a trick, it was the red dirt.
We would say, no, it was blood.
He is the Lord.

22 Then the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments; and Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, as the Lord had said.

And the result? Pharaoh's heart grows hard.

Ephesians described those without Christ as passed feeling.

How does that happen?

Simply this...you hear God's word and you do not heed it.

23 And Pharaoh turned and went into his house. Neither was his heart moved by this. **24** So all the Egyptians dug all around the river for water to drink, because they could not drink the water of the river. **25** And seven days passed after the Lord had struck the river.

The people are left scrambling for a full week because the leader's heart is hardened.

Followers suffer when leaders fail to care about others.