

## Showdown in Egypt Part 6 *Moses Dealing with Injustice*

### Message to Conversation Guide

#### Discussion Questions

1. Discuss the definition of injustice that is given below. Do you agree or disagree with the definition?

***Injustice - the absence of justice: violation of what is considered right and just or of the rights of another.: an unjust act.***

2. One of the common themes of Moses' life is dealing with injustice and oppression of the innocent. How do the two stories below share this common theme?

#### ***Exodus 2:11-14***

*11 One 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.** 12 Looking this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. 13 The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, **"Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?"** 14 The man said, "Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid and thought, "What I did must have become known." NIV*

#### ***Exodus 2:15-22***

*15 When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian, where he sat down by a well. 16 Now a priest of Midian **had seven daughters, and they came to draw water and fill the troughs to water their father's flock.** 17 Some shepherds came along and drove them away, but **Moses got up and came to their rescue and watered their flock.** 18 When the girls returned to Reuel their father, he asked them, **"Why have you returned so early today?"** 19 They answered, "An Egyptian rescued us from the shepherds. He even drew water for us and watered the flock." 20 "And where is he?" Reuel asked his daughters. "Why did you leave him? Invite him to have something to eat." 21 Moses agreed to stay with the man, who gave his daughter Zipporah to Moses in marriage. 22 Zipporah gave birth to a son, and Moses named him Gershom, saying, "I have become a foreigner in a foreign land." NIV*

3. Moses **"stood up"** (ESV "but Moses stood up) at the well when he saw the shepherds exploiting Reuel's daughters. Discuss this principle:

***Seeing injustice and not responding makes one a part of the injustice.***

4. Read and discuss the scriptures below that encourage us to be an advocate for people that are being exploited.

*Psalm 82:3*

3 **Defend the weak** and the fatherless; **uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.** NIV (see *Isaiah 1:17, Micah 6:8*)

*Proverbs 31:8-9*

8 **Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,** for the rights of all who are destitute. 9 **Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.** NIV

5. One of the reasons that we should help the oppressed and resist injustice is that God cares about people that are being exploited. How do the verses below confirm this about God?

*Exodus 3:7-10*

7 The Lord said, **"I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering.** 8 **So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land,** a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. 9 And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. 10 So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt." NIV

6. Another reason we should respond to injustice toward others is we would want someone to rescue us if we were being exploited. Read and contemplate the poem below.

***First, they came ....***

*Martin Niemoller*

*First they came for the Communists  
And I did not speak out  
Because I was not a Communist*

*Then they came for the Socialists  
And I did not speak out  
Because I was not a Socialist*

*Then they came for the trade unionists  
And I did not speak out  
Because I was not a trade unionist*

*Then they came for the Jews  
And I did not speak out  
Because I was not a Jew*

*Then they came for me  
And there was no one left  
To speak out for me.*