

JUNE 15th

BROKENNESS IMPACTS RESPONSE

"I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. I am the LORD." "Moses spoke thus to the people of Israel, but they did not listen to Moses, because of their broken spirit and harsh slavery." EXODUS 6:7-9

No ifs, ands, or buts about it. Have you heard that statement before? Or maybe have you used it yourself? What does it actually mean? Well, the statement is meant to emphasize certainty. When a person makes a statement like this, it is usually preceded by a commanding presence. Once they make a command or a simple statement, it cannot be argued against or disobeyed. There are no conditions that disarm the statement. It is meant to be followed with resolute confidence. However, one of the strongest statements by God in the Bible is "but." How does God respond to Moses, the Hebrews, and Pharaoh, and what does this teach us as God's men today?

We've just read Moses' pity party when he believes that he's failed. The message of hope that Aaron and Moses gave to the Hebrews was accepted at first...until reality set in. The reality that God's plan was different than the Hebrews' expectations. How does God respond to Moses' complaints? With His trademark..." but." That's how God begins the next chapter. Out of the chaos and agony of gathering straw and making bricks, God puts His mark on the narrative. This is where hope collides with discouragement. Did you notice what God says here? "I am the Lord. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by my name the Lord I did not make myself known to them. I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as sojourners." God brings Moses back to other impossible situations. Abraham was childless. Isaac was wifeless. Jacob was a liar. But God worked out His purposes by providing a son, a wife, and changing Jacob's life. Don't miss the fact that God frequently reminds His people of what He has done...because we forget quickly what He's accomplished.

The Hebrews have forgotten God's works over the last four hundred years. They couldn't lift their eyes up to see God's care for them. They only saw the tyranny of Egypt. Who could blame them? Their grandfathers were born slaves and died slaves. Their parents were born slaves and died slaves. Why would they be any different? This is the power of "But the Lord said to Moses." God speaks in the middle of confusion and desperation. But here's the pivotal question...how will God's people respond? Verse 9 tells us in one sentence how the people respond: "they did not listen to Moses, because of their broken spirit and harsh slavery." They can't see through the fog to see the power of their God.

Men, are we any different than the Hebrews? When times become difficult and demanding, do we listen to our God? Do we find refuge and rescue from the truth of His Word? God's words haven't changed throughout human history. Because of Christ's work on the cross, we have true security and protection. We are rescued from ourselves. We are rescued from the tyranny of Satan's lies in the world. But will we listen to the truth God gives us? Feelings come and go. We have many highs and lows. That's always been the human story. But God. God comes to us and gives us an inheritance that is kept in heaven for us. Nothing can touch our life with Christ. The challenge for the Hebrews and for us has always been the same...will we listen to God's words and find life?

Spend some thanking God for His perfect words that He gives us in the Scriptures. Ask him for help to be strong to trust in what He says.

For Further Reading: Deuteronomy 30:11-20

