Moses
Part 7
"Pressure Mounds"

Exodus 5 NIV
1 Afterward Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival to me in the wilderness.'"

2 Pharaoh said, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord and I will not let Israel go."

3 Then they said, "The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Now let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the Lord our God, or he may strike us with plagues or with the sword."

4 But the king of Egypt said, "Moses and Aaron, why are you taking the people away from their labor? Get back to your work!" **5** Then Pharaoh said, "Look, the people of the land are now numerous, and you are stopping them from working."

- Vs 1 begins with Moses and Aaron going to Pharaoh and saying to the most powerful man in the world what God told them to say…

- We can't underestimate the amount of courage it took to approach Pharaoh with such a request. But Moses and Aaron didn't come in their own authority but in the authority of the Living God.

"Pharaoh was nothing like a public servant; the entire nation lived to serve the Pharaoh. His power and authority were supreme and there was no constitution, law or legislature higher or even remotely equal to him. The Egyptians believed that the Pharaohs were children of the sun; and believed they were friends with the gods of Egypt and sat with them in their own temples to receive worship with them." **(Guzik)**

An inscription by a Pharaoh on an ancient Egyptian temple gives the idea: *"I am that which was, and is, and shall be, and no man has lifted my veil."* **(Meyer)**

- So Moses is speaking to a king who believes he is a god, with a word from the true and living God. Without a doubt there is spiritual collision taking place.

- Our text gives prophetic understanding of just how the spirit of the world views the true and living God.

- God gives Pharaoh this message Vs. 1 "Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival/feast to me in the wilderness"

- Pharaoh responds, **Vs. 2** *"**Who** is the Lord"* and then **Vs. 4** *"**why** are you taking the people away from their labor? Get back to your work"*

- Any time God moves in the lives of people with calling and direction the spirit of this world will say *Who is the Lord?* (Questioning the existence and validity of the living God)… and *get back to work (Showing total disregard to God and His request)*…

- Pharaoh viewed Moses and Aaron's request as foolish and inconvenient…

- It seems to me that this is well repeated throughout history… It happened for Israel with Pharaoh… It happened in our nation when under the tyrant king of England, which ultimately lead to the revolutionary war… I would dare to say that today, the same spirit to enslave and silence God's people is present and at work in our world…

Vs. 6-18

6 That same day Pharaoh gave this order to the slave drivers and
overseers in charge of the people: **7** “You are no longer to supply the
people with straw for making bricks; let them go and gather their own
straw. **8** But require them to make the same number of bricks as
before; don’t reduce the quota. They are lazy; that is why they are
crying out, ‘Let us go and sacrifice to our God.’ **9** Make the work
harder for the people so that they keep working and pay no attention
to lies.”

10 Then the slave drivers and the overseers went out and said to the
people, “This is what Pharaoh says: ‘I will not give you any more straw.
11 Go and get your own straw wherever you can find it, but your work
will not be reduced at all.’” **12** So the people scattered all over Egypt
to gather stubble to use for straw. **13** The slave drivers kept pressing
them, saying, “Complete the work required of you for each day, just as
when you had straw.” **14** And Pharaoh’s slave drivers beat the Israelite
overseers they had appointed, demanding, “Why haven’t you met your
quota of bricks yesterday or today, as before?”

15 Then the Israelite overseers went and appealed to Pharaoh: “Why
have you treated your servants this way? **16** Your servants are given no
straw, yet we are told, ‘Make bricks!’ Your servants are being beaten,
but the fault is with your own people.”

17 Pharaoh said, “Lazy, that’s what you are—lazy! That is why you
keep saying, ‘Let us go and sacrifice to the Lord.’ **18** Now get to work.
You will not be given any straw, yet you must produce your full quota
of bricks.”

3 step plan to slavery for the Israelites:
Accommodation/Tyranny/Suffering

1. At one point the Pharaoh in Egypt was Accommodating. Whatever they needed. He was there to accommodate their needs and requests.

2. Once the Accommodating is over, it turns to Tyranny. It's no longer what can Pharaoh do for Israel but what can Israel do for Pharaoh.

3. Tyranny doesn't stops there, but like every evil thing that doesn't come from God, it always leads to suffering.

- Tension and conflict is rising and it seems that it's between Pharaoh and the Israelites, but in reality the conflict is between Pharaoh and God and the Israelites happen to be caught in the middle.

- First Pharaoh shows contempt towards God by questioning his existence and then by showing disregard to God's request. Now Pharaoh mocks God, by not allowing Israel to leave and by making them work even harder than before.

- In this particular situation the Israelites should not worry about what Pharaoh can do to them, but rather what God can do to Pharaoh.

The revelation we are given from Scripture is this: The people of God should not worry what man can do to them, but rather what God can do to the man who opposes Him.

Pharaoh mocks God: Scripture warns against those who mock God

Psalm 2 NIV

1
Why do the nations conspire
and the peoples plot in vain?
2
The kings of the earth rise up
and the rulers band together
against the Lord and against his anointed, saying,

3
“Let us break their chains
and throw off their shackles.”
4
The One enthroned in heaven laughs;
the Lord scoffs at them.
5
He rebukes them in his anger
and terrifies them in his wrath…

Proverbs 1 NIV
24
But since you refuse to listen when I call
and no one pays attention when I stretch out my hand,
25
since you disregard all my advice
and do not accept my rebuke,
26
I in turn will laugh when disaster strikes you;
I will mock when calamity overtakes you—

Ezekiel 29 NIV
2 “Son of man, set your face against Pharaoh king of Egypt and prophesy against him and against all Egypt. **3** Speak to him and say: ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says:

“‘I am against you, Pharaoh king of Egypt,
you great monster lying among your streams.
You say, “The Nile belongs to me;
I made it for myself.”
4
But I will put hooks in your jaws…

5
I will give you as food
to the beasts of the earth and the birds of the sky.
6 Then all who live in Egypt will know that I am the Lord.

- In application to our own lives, when we witness people mocking God we should not worry for God, we should worry for them.

Galatians 6:7
Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

Vs. 19-22
19 The Israelite overseers realized they were in trouble when they were told, "You are not to reduce the number of bricks required of you for each day." **20** When they left Pharaoh, they found Moses and Aaron waiting to meet them, **21** and they said, "May the Lord look on you and judge you! You have made us obnoxious to Pharaoh and his officials and have put a sword in their hand to kill us."

22 Moses returned to the Lord and said, "Why, Lord, why have you brought trouble on this people? Is this why you sent me? **23** Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has brought trouble on this people, and you have not rescued your people at all."

- When the Lord begins to work on behalf of the Israelites, to free them, at first it got worse before it got better…

- At this point, those who were under the oppression of Pharaoh felt that Moses was more of a trouble maker than a helper. They even said **Vs. 21a** "May the Lord look on you and judge you!"

- For those Israelites the worsening of their conditions made them believe the one who was there to deliver them, was going to get them killed. **Vs. 21b** “and his officials and have put a sword in their hand to kill us.”

Have you ever seen anything like this?

- Maybe you’ve minister to someone and direct them to Jesus and His word. In the process their circumstance went from bad to worse. That is proof that the battle is real and spiritual…

- Maybe in your own life, the Lord sent someone to shared Jesus with you and show you God’s Word… If you said Yes to Jesus and tried walking in obedience to God, you might have experienced a season of trials and tribulation. That is proof that the battle is real and spiritual.

Note: If a battle rages when you say yes to Jesus… let that be an indication that you are on the right track… The devil is a real enemy and God is about to go to war for you… The God of peace will soon crush satan under your feet…

This is the part that’s difficult and confuses people… Just like the Israelites wanted to quit, in those moments when you want to quit know this, God is on the way…

Exodus 6

1 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh: Because of my mighty hand he will let them go; because of my mighty hand he will drive them out of his country.”

Closing:

The fundamental demand of God to Pharaoh was freedom for His people. Israel belonged God, not Pharaoh; and therefore, that they should be free. The same is true of those who belong to God today, they should be free, not bound.

Galatians 5:1
It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.