



Date: 4-21-2024

Scripture: Exodus 9

Sermon Title: Just one more Chance

Exodus 9:1-7 (LSB)

1 Then Yahweh said to Moses, "Come to Pharaoh and speak to him, 'Thus says Yahweh, the God of the Hebrews, "Let My people go, that they may serve Me. 2 "For if you refuse to let [them] go and continue to hold them, 3 behold, the hand of Yahweh will come [with] a very heavy pestilence on your livestock which are in the field, on the horses, on the donkeys, on the camels, on the herds, and on the flocks. 4 "But Yahweh will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt, so that nothing will die of all that belongs to the sons of Israel.'" 5 Yahweh also set a definite time, saying, "Tomorrow Yahweh will do this thing in the land." 6 So Yahweh did this thing on the next day, and all the livestock of Egypt died; but of the livestock of the sons of Israel, not one died. 7 And Pharaoh sent, and behold, there was not even one of the livestock of Israel dead. But the heart of Pharaoh was hardened with firmness, and he did not let the people go.

Plague of Livestock

Exodus 9.1-7

Children of God _____ to His voice.

Exodus 9:8-12 (LSB)

8 Then Yahweh said to Moses and Aaron, "Take for yourselves handfuls of soot from a kiln, and let Moses toss it toward the sky in the sight of Pharaoh. 9 "And it will become fine dust over all the land of Egypt, and it will become boils breaking out with sores on man and beast through all the land of Egypt." 10 So they took the soot from the kiln and stood before Pharaoh; and Moses tossed it toward the sky, and it became boils breaking out with sores on man and beast. 11 And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils, for the boils were on the magicians as well as on all the Egyptians. 12 And Yahweh hardened Pharaoh's heart with strength, and he did not listen to them, just as Yahweh had spoken to Moses.

Plague of Boils

Exodus 9.8-12

Every person will have to _____ who God really is.

Exodus 9:13-35 (LSB)

13 And Yahweh said to Moses, "Rise up early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh, and you shall say to him, 'Thus says Yahweh, the God of the Hebrews, "Let My people go, that they may serve Me. 14 "For this time I will send all My plagues against your heart and amongst your servants and your people, so that you may know that there is no one like Me in all the earth. 15 "For [if by] now I had sent forth My hand and struck you and your people with pestilence, you would then have been wiped out from the earth. 16 "But, indeed, for this reason I have caused you to stand, in order to show you My power and in order to recount My name through all the earth. 17 "Still you exalt yourself against My people by not letting them go.

18 "Behold, about this time tomorrow, I will rain down very heavy hail, such as has not been [seen] in Egypt from the day it was founded until now. 19 "So now, send, bring your livestock and whatever you have in the field to safety. Every man and beast that is found in the field and is not brought home, the hail will come down on them, and they will die." 20 The one among the servants of Pharaoh who feared the word of Yahweh made his servants and his livestock flee into the houses; 21 but he who did not consider in his heart the word of Yahweh left his servants and his livestock in the field. 22 Now Yahweh said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward the sky, that there may be hail on all the land of Egypt, on man and on beast and on every plant of the field, throughout the land of Egypt." 23 So Moses stretched out his staff toward the sky, and Yahweh gave forth thunder and hail, and fire went down to the earth. And Yahweh rained down hail on the land of Egypt. 24 So there was hail, and fire flashing continually in the midst of the hail, very heavy, such as had not been in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation. 25 And the hail struck all that was in the field through all the land of Egypt, from man to beast; the hail also struck every plant of the field and shattered every tree of the field. 26 Only in the land of Goshen, where the sons of Israel [were], there was no hail. 27 Then Pharaoh sent and called for Moses and Aaron and said to them, "I have sinned this time; Yahweh is the righteous one, and I and my people are the wicked ones. 28 "Entreat Yahweh, for God's thunder and hail are too much; and I will let you go, and you shall stay no longer." 29 And Moses said to him, "As soon as I go out of the city, I will spread out my hands to Yahweh; the thunder will cease, and there will be hail no longer, that you may know that the earth is Yahweh's. 30 "But as for you and your servants, I know that you do not yet fear Yahweh God." 31 (Now the flax and the barley were struck down, for the barley was in the ear and the flax was in bud. 32 But the wheat and the spelt were not struck down, for they are late-ripening.) 33 And Moses went out of the city from Pharaoh and spread out his hands to Yahweh; and the thunder and the hail ceased, and rain no longer poured on the earth. 34 But Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunder had ceased. So he sinned again and hardened his heart with firmness, he and his servants. 35 And Pharaoh's heart was hardened with strength, and he did not let the sons of Israel go, just as Yahweh had spoken by the hand of Moses.

Plague of Hail

Exodus 9.13-35

God's purpose is always _____ and _____.

Exodus 9:19-21 (LSB)

19 "So now, send, bring your livestock and whatever you have in the field to safety. Every man and beast that is found in the field and is not brought home, the hail will come down on them, and they will die." 20 The one among the servants of Pharaoh who feared the word of Yahweh made his servants and his livestock flee into the houses; 21 but he who did not consider in his heart the word of Yahweh left his servants and his livestock in the field.

God is not seeking to give you second chances. He is looking to give you a _____.

Ezekiel 36:26 (LSB)

26 "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (LSB)

17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, [he is] a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

A New heart loves _____.

Ephesians 4:22-24 (LSB)

22 to lay aside, in reference to your former conduct, the old man, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and to be

renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and to put on the new man, which in [the likeness of] God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

Life Group Questions:

1. What is a hobby or activity that you enjoy doing? Why do you enjoy this hobby / activity?

Read Exodus Chapter 9 (prior to life group): When you read through the scripture take note of anything interesting, unique, or questions that come to mind when reading. Take some time and dig in deeper in the following areas.

2. In what ways is Pharaoh actively participating in the hardening of his own heart? What role is God playing in the hardening of Pharaoh's heart? Read Romans 1.18-25. How do we balance the free will of man and the sovereignty of God?
3. How can pursuing "second chances" with God give us a wrong perspective of the Gospel? What does it mean to be a new creation? How is this lived out?

free will. The ability, allegedly present in every human person, to act on the basis of one's own rational choice; the ability to choose without constraint or compulsion from among options. The idea of free will is contrasted with determinism, i.e., the outlook that asserts that an external agent or force determines all human choices. The assertion that each

human is endowed with free will is a widely held ethical assumption. As a principle of ethics, it suggests that moral actions are not random events, but originate from the volition (will) and perhaps the character of the moral agent. Some ethicists argue that free will forms a necessary basis for moral responsibility.

Foreknow [Gk. *proginōskō*] (Rom. 8:29; 11:2); NEB KNEW BEFORE, “acknowledged of old as his own”; **FOREKNOWLEDGE** [Gk. *prōgnōsis*] (Acts 2:23); NEB “plan.” These Greek terms express the concept of knowing reality before it is real and events before they occur. In the NT these terms (used also in 1 Pet. 1:2, 20; RSV “destine”) always refer to God’s knowledge, except in Acts 26:5; 2 Pet. 3:17 (in which the human foreknowledge is the result of information received earlier or of revelation). In theology, therefore, “foreknowledge” refers to that aspect of God’s omniscience whereby God not only knows all things and persons, but knows them before they are real or before they occur.

determinism. Generally defined in opposition to the concept of free will, determinism, as it relates to ethics, asserts that all human behaviors are the necessary or inevitable result of prior causes. Natural determinism sees all events as a direct result of prior causes in a chain of cause and effect present throughout the universe. Theological determinism asserts that God directly or indirectly causes all events. Many ethicists reject both forms of determinism on the assumption that neither allows for the possibility of free human choice, which is foundational for moral responsibility.

Read 1 Samuel 23.1-14

How do the concepts of free will, foreknowledge and determinism show up in this passage? How do they interact with one another?

1 Samuel 23:1-14 (LSB)

1 Then they told David, saying, "Behold, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah and are pillaging the threshing floors." 2 So David asked of Yahweh, saying, "Shall I go and strike these Philistines?" And Yahweh said to David, "Go and strike the Philistines and save Keilah." 3 But David's men said to him, "Behold, we are afraid here in Judah. How much more then if we go to Keilah against the battle lines of the Philistines?" 4 Then David asked of Yahweh once more. And Yahweh answered him and said, "Arise, go down to Keilah, for I will give the Philistines into your hand." 5 So David and his men went to Keilah and fought with the Philistines; and he led away their

livestock and struck them with a great slaughter. Thus David saved the inhabitants of Keilah. 6 Now it happened when Abiathar the son of Ahimelech fled to David at Keilah, [that] he came down [with] an ephod in his hand. 7 Then it was told to Saul that David had come to Keilah, so Saul said, "God has delivered him into my hand, for he shut himself in by entering a city with double gates and bars." 8 Then Saul summoned all the people for battle, to go down to Keilah to besiege David and his men. 9 But David knew that Saul was plotting evil against him; so he said to Abiathar the priest, "Bring the ephod here." 10 Then David said, "O Yahweh, the God of Israel, Your slave has heard for certain that Saul is seeking to come to Keilah to make the city a ruin on my account. 11 "Will the men of Keilah surrender me into his hand? Will Saul come down just as Your slave has heard? O Yahweh, the God of Israel, I pray, tell Your slave." And Yahweh said, "He will come down." 12 Then David said, "Will the men of Keilah surrender me and my men into the hand of Saul?" And Yahweh said, "They will surrender you." 13 Then David and his men, about six hundred, arose and departed from Keilah, and they went wherever they could go. Now it was told to Saul that David had escaped from Keilah, so he ceased going out [in pursuit]. 14 And David stayed in the wilderness in the strongholds and remained in the hill country in the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but God did not give him into his hand.