



FLOW

Free to Worship, Free to Love

The Battle for True Worship

Exodus 3-12

- Because Egyptians worshiped Pharaoh as God, this conflict was about idolatry vs. true worship
- The Israelites getting out of Egypt is framed as one of worship
- Since we receive our true identity in worship, the formation of Israel as a nation is forged in worship. This is what grounds Israel as a people.
- Because Pharaoh sees Israel's worship to God as a threat to his kingdom, His responses reveal tactics Satan still uses to compromise our worship

The Battle for True Worship

Exodus 5 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 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."

Principle 1

The heart of our identity is as a worshiper of God

Compromise 1

The heart of your identity is in your work

FLOW

The Battle for True Worship

Exodus 8 ²⁴ And the Lord did this. Dense swarms of flies poured into Pharaoh's palace and into the houses of his officials; throughout Egypt the land was ruined by the flies.

²⁵ Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "**Go, sacrifice to your God here in the land.**" ²⁶ But Moses said, "That would not be right. The sacrifices we offer the Lord our God would be detestable to the Egyptians. And if we offer sacrifices that are detestable in their eyes, will they not stone us? ²⁷ We must take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the Lord our God, as he commands us."

FLOW

Principle 2

True worship requires a change of environment

Compromise 2a

You can worship God fine just exactly where you are

God receives just as we are but this often requires us taking steps from where we currently are

The Battle for True Worship

Exodus 8 ²⁸ Pharaoh said, "I will let you go to offer sacrifices to the Lord your God in the wilderness, but **you must not go very far**. Now pray for me."

²⁹ Moses answered, "As soon as I leave you, I will pray to the Lord, and tomorrow the flies will leave Pharaoh and his officials and his people. Only let Pharaoh be sure that he does not act deceitfully again by not letting the people go to offer sacrifices to the Lord."

³⁰ Then Moses left Pharaoh and prayed to the Lord, ³¹ and the Lord did what Moses asked. The flies left Pharaoh and his officials and his people; not a fly remained.

³² But this time also Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let the people go.

Principle 2

True worship requires a change of environment

Compromise 2a

You can worship God fine just exactly where you are

Compromise 2b

You can worship God by just making little tweaks to your life

The Battle for True Worship

Exodus 10 ⁸ Then Moses and Aaron were brought back to Pharaoh. "Go, worship the Lord your God," he said. "But tell me who will be going."

⁹ Moses answered, "We will go with our young and our old, with our sons and our daughters, and with our flocks and herds, because we are to celebrate a festival to the Lord."

¹⁰ Pharaoh said, "The Lord be with you—if I let you go, along with your women and children! Clearly you are bent on evil. ¹¹ **No! Have only the men go and worship the Lord**, since that's what you have been asking for." Then Moses and Aaron were driven out of Pharaoh's presence.

Principle 3

Worship is the inheritance for each of God's sons + daughters

Compromise 3

Worship is just for the men or the important people

The Battle for True Worship

Exodus 10 ²¹ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward the sky so that darkness spreads over Egypt—darkness that can be felt." ²² So Moses stretched out his hand toward the sky, and total darkness covered all Egypt for three days.

²³ No one could see anyone else or move about for three days. Yet all the Israelites had light in the places where they lived.

²⁴ Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and said, "Go, worship the Lord. **Even your women and children may go with you; only leave your flocks and herds behind.**"

Principle 4

At its heart, worship always involves sacrifice

Compromise 4

You can worship and follow God without it costing you something

The Battle for True Worship

Exodus 10 ²⁹ At midnight the Lord struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon, and the firstborn of all the livestock as well. ³⁰ Pharaoh and all his officials and all the Egyptians got up during the night, and there was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead.

³¹ During the night Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "Up! Leave my people, you and the Israelites! Go, worship the Lord as you have requested. ³² Take your flocks and herds, as you have said, and go. And also bless me."

True Worship

The heart of my identity is as a worshiper of God

True worship requires a change of environment

Worship is the inheritance for each of God's sons + daughters

At its heart, worship always involves sacrifice

1

2

3

4

Compromised Worship

The heart of your identity is in your work

You can worship God fine just exactly where you are

Worship is just for the men or the important people

You can worship and follow God without it costing you something

A Few Things I've Learned

I want to be a participant, not a spectator

I want to be more freely and fully me

We try to create a corporate space which enables you to connect with God more deeply

The heart of worship is relationship with God

I'm willing to sacrifice for more of God

FLOW

The heart of
worship is
relationship with
God

I want to be a
participant, not a
spectator

I want to be more
freely and fully me

I'm willing to
sacrifice for more of
God

We try to
create a corporate
space which enables
you to connect with
God more deeply

FLOW