

Exodus 5

4/30/17

Sunday Morning

Review:

1. God had told Israel that they were to be circumcised as a sign of God's covenant w/ them

Genesis 17:9 God said further to Abraham, "Now as for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations.

¹⁰ " This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: every male among you shall be circumcised.

2. Moses had not kept God's covenant w/ Israel while he was in Midian

Exodus 4:24 Now it came about at the lodging place on the way that the LORD met him and sought to put him to death.

²⁵ Then Zipporah took a flint and cut off her son's foreskin and threw it at Moses' feet, and she said, "You are indeed a bridegroom of blood to me."

²⁶ So He let him alone. At that time she said, "*You are* a bridegroom of blood"—because of the circumcision.

3. You can't serve God on your terms – that is what the Church is trying to do today
 - a. God could not use Moses until after he had repented
 - b. The Church is trying to be relevant to God w/out purity & it isn't

Ex.4:27 Now the LORD said to Aaron, "Go to meet Moses in the wilderness." So he went and met him at the mountain of God and kissed him.

V.28 Moses told Aaron all the words of the LORD with which He had sent him, and all the signs that He had commanded him to do.

V.29 Then Moses and Aaron went and assembled all the elders of the sons of Israel;

V.30 and **Aaron spoke** all the words which the LORD had spoken to Moses. He then performed the signs in the sight of the people.

V.31 So the people believed; and when they heard that the LORD was concerned about the sons of Israel and that He had seen their affliction, then they bowed low and worshiped. **5:1 (NP)**

5:1 And afterward Moses and Aaron **came** and said to Pharaoh, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Let My people go that they may celebrate a feast to Me in the wilderness.'")

V.2 But Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, and besides, I will not let Israel go."

1. **"Who is the LORD** that I should obey His voice to let Israel go"
 - a. "Who is the Lord that I should obey...?" is the theme through **chap.14**
 - b. Realize that Pharaoh had unbridled authority
 - c. Every Pharaoh was considered a child of the sun (Ra)
 - d. He was considered a god – to be worshipped as equal to the highest gods of Egypt
 - e. The highest oath an Egyptian could swear was – "on the life of pharaoh..." equivalent to our – "So help me God"
 - f. Without Pharaoh's permission no one had the right to do anything in Egypt
 - g. Egypt existed for Pharaoh's purposes & pleasure
 - h. The people existed for Pharaoh's use
 - i. Every tear shed by an Egyptian or slave was a sincere sacrifice to Pharaoh (who was worthy)
2. "I do not know the LORD, and besides, I will not let Israel go"
 - a. Pharaoh saw Jehovah God as being no bigger than the people who worshipped Him
 - i. He was a God of the slaves – therefore not much
 - b. The world doesn't see God as being very big either
 - c. Sadly the Church is not much different
 - d. Well, Pharaoh is going to find out Who the Lord is!!!
 - i. For 8 chapters Pharaoh will be finding out Who Jehovah is!
 - ii. So is Russia, Iran, Egypt, USA, & the world!

V.3 Then they said, "The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Please, let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God, otherwise He will fall upon us with pestilence or with the sword."

1. "let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness"
 - a. They start w/ a simple request – just give us a 3 day journey!
 - b. They say "Please" – this is to give Pharaoh all the wiggle room to allow them to go under the best terms

V.4 (NP)

V.4 But the king of Egypt said to them, "Moses and Aaron, why do you draw the people away from their work? Get back to your labors!"

1. "Get back to your labors"

a. Pharaoh doesn't recognize Moses as being any different than the slaves

b. God will change Pharaoh's attitude toward Moses

Exodus 7:1 Then the LORD said to Moses, " See, I make you as God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron shall be your prophet.

c.

V.5 Again Pharaoh said, "Look, the people of the land are now many, and you would have them cease from their labors!"

V.6 So the same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters over the people and their foremen, saying,

V.7 "You are no longer to give the people straw to make brick as previously; let them go and gather straw for themselves.

V.8 "But the quota of bricks which they were making previously, you shall impose on them; you are not to reduce any of it. Because they are lazy, therefore they cry out, 'Let us go and sacrifice to our God.'

V.9 "Let the labor be heavier on the men, and let them work at it so that they will pay no attention to false words."

1. "Look, the people of the land are now many" (V.5)

a. Most take this to mean that the slaves are many

b. Pharaoh's way of handling the slaves is keep them laboring to exhaustion

i. This was the mentality of the Pharaohs at the beginning of their enslavement

Exodus 1:8 Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.

⁹ And he said to his people, "Behold, the people of the sons of Israel are more and mightier than we.

¹⁰ "Come, let us deal wisely with them, lest they multiply and in the event of war, they also join themselves to those who hate us, and fight against us, and depart from the land."

c.

V.10 So the taskmasters of the people and their foremen went out and spoke to the people, saying, "Thus says Pharaoh, 'I am not going to give you any straw.

V.11 'You go and get straw for yourselves wherever you can find it, but none of your labor will be reduced.'

V.12 So the people scattered through all the land of Egypt to gather stubble for straw.

V.13 The taskmasters pressed them, saying, "Complete your work quota, your daily amount, just as when you had straw."

1. "Complete your work quota"
 - a. They have found Egyptian structures of that era that start off w/ bricks w/ straw, bricks w/ little straw & end w/ bricks w/ no straw
 - b. They also found that the straw had a 2 fold purpose –
 - i. **#1.** It helped the bricks stay together
 - ii. **#2.** The straw produced humic acid in sun baked bricks which made the bricks harder

V.14 Moreover, the foremen of the sons of Israel, whom Pharaoh's taskmasters had set over them, were beaten and were asked, "Why have you not completed your required amount either yesterday or today in making brick as previously?"

V.15 Then the foremen of the sons of Israel came and cried out to Pharaoh, saying, "Why do you deal this way with your servants?"

V.16 "There is no straw given to your servants, yet they keep saying to us, 'Make bricks!' And behold, your servants are being beaten; but it is the fault of your own people.")

V.17 But he said, "You are lazy, very lazy; therefore you say, 'Let us go and sacrifice to the LORD.'

V.18 "So go now and work; for you will be given no straw, yet you must deliver the quota of bricks."

1. "you will be given no straw, yet you must deliver the quota of bricks"
 - a. Never expect there to be a legitimate spiritual endeavor that is not met w/ resistance
 - b. We are in a spiritual battle from the beginning of our Christian life until the end of our earthly work!

Ephesians 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

V.19 The foremen of the sons of Israel saw that they were in trouble because they were told, "You must not reduce your daily amount of bricks." **V.20(NP)**

V.20 When they left Pharaoh's presence, they met Moses and Aaron as they were waiting for them.

V.21 They said to them, "May the LORD look upon you and judge you, for you have made us odious in Pharaoh's sight and in the sight of his servants, to put a sword in their hand to kill us."

1. "May the LORD look upon you and judge you..."

a. **Three things** are obvious here

b. **#1.** Moses is rejected by Pharaoh – he is rejected by the people he is sent to deliver!

i. It is one thing to be rejected by an unbeliever – it is quite another to be rejected by your own kind – believers!

ii. There are times when the only One you can trust is God Himself!

iii. High expectations in man lead to disappointment

c. What do you do when you do what God wants you to do & it backfires?

i. Instead of freeing the Hebrews, they are more enslaved & angry w/ Moses!

ii. You stand on what you know! God has called you to do whatever & that is what you do!

iii. Here is how we are to deal w/ adverse circumstances

1 Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that **He** may exalt you at the proper time,

⁷ casting all your anxiety upon Him, **because** He cares for you.

⁸ Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

⁹ But resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

¹⁰ And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, **will Himself** perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.

d. How does a person come to a place to trust God that much? –

- e. When you have been backed into a corner where God was the only answer enough times & you know Him thru His Word well enough that you have learned to trust Him then you are ready
 - i. Only the eye of faith can see thru the "whys"
- f. So the next time everything falls apart around you & you want to ask why – maybe the answer isn't that hard to find!
- g. **#1. So, quite frankly – Moses is learning to stand alone**
- h. God takes the weakest of men & makes them strong for His glory – not for theirs!
- i. **#2. Israel isn't ready to be delivered yet!**
 - i. They don't see anything in this deliverance except their own personal comfort
 - ii. They don't see the value of God revealing how big He is – or any other of His attributes
 - iii. At this point God isn't the main issue & until He is they are not ready to leave
 - iv. IN fact they have already started begging Moses to go away & leave them alone

Exodus 14:12 (NIV) Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians'?
It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!"
- j. **#3. Israel must see their deliverance coming from the outside & not from within**
 - i. As long as they looked to man to deliver them they would remain immature believers
 - ii. The older generation that came out of Egypt never understood that God was their Deliverer & failed when it came to entering Canaan – (except Joshua & Caleb)

Numbers 13:25 When they returned from spying out the land, at the end of forty days,
²⁶ they proceeded to come to Moses and Aaron and to all the congregation of the sons of Israel in the wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh; and they brought back word to them and to all the congregation and showed them the fruit of the land.

²⁷ Thus they told him^(Moses), and said, "We went in to the land where you sent us; and it certainly does flow with milk and honey, and this is its fruit.

²⁸ "Nevertheless, the people who live in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified *and* very large; and moreover, we saw the descendants of Anak there.

V.30 Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "We should by all means go up and take possession of it, for we shall surely overcome it."

³¹ But the men who had gone up with him said, " We are not able to go up against the people, for they are too strong for us."

³² So they gave out to the sons of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone, in spying it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants; and all the people whom we saw in it are men of *great* size.

³³ "There also we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak are part of the Nephilim); and we became like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."

Numbers 14:1 Then all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night.

² And all the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron; and the whole congregation said to them, "Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness!

³ "And why is the LORD bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become plunder; would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?"

⁴ So they said to one another, " Let us appoint a leader and return to Egypt."

⁵ Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces in the presence of all the assembly of the congregation of the sons of Israel.

V.6 (NP)

⁶ And Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, of those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes;

⁷ and they spoke to all the congregation of the sons of Israel, saying, " The land which we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land.

⁸ " If the LORD is pleased with us, then He will bring us into this land, and give it to us-- a land which flows with milk and honey.

⁹ "Only do not rebel against the LORD; and do not fear the people of the land, for they shall be our prey. Their protection has been removed from them, and the LORD is with us; do not fear them."

iii.

V.22 Then Moses returned to the LORD and said, "O Lord, why have You brought harm to this people? Why did You ever send me?

V.23 "Ever since I came to Pharaoh to speak in Your name, he has done harm to this people, and You have not delivered Your people at all."

1. "Why did You ever send me"

a. Moses didn't have a very big picture of God either did he?

b. The just man shall live by faith

iv. They needed to know that **the will to do** & the **ability to do** both come from God

Philippians 2:13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure.

c. It is time for the Church to live as God would have us live

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And do not lean on your own understanding.

⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.

⁷ Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil.