

Quarter Three: Exodus: Journey to the Promised Land

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Lesson 3—Rough Start

Thursday: Like God to Pharaoh

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- **Last Week:** “The Burning Bush” ○ Exodus 3 & 4
 - The burning bush: Moses’ call by God
 - 5 Questions & God’s answers
- **This Week:** “Rough Start” ○ Exodus 5 & 6
 - Moses’ first plea to Pharaoh to let the Israelites go
 - Pharaoh’s response to punish the people more
 - Israelites discouragement; God’s encouragement & promises ▪ Call for obedience

Memory Text: “Afterward Moses and Aaron went in and told Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the LORD God of Israel: “Let My people go, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness.”’ And Pharaoh said, ‘Who is the LORD, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, nor will I let Israel go’” (Ex 5:1, 2, NKJV)

The week in brief:

- 1. **Sunday:** Who Is the Lord? (James) ○ Ex 5:1, 2 – Pharaoh – and, by extension, the nation of Egypt’s – defiance & rebellion of God & the comparison with atheistic France
- 2. **Monday:** A Rough Start (John L) ○ Ex 5:3 – 23 – Moses & Aaron’s first encounter with Pharaoh led to greater hardship for the Israelites; the Israelites now turn against Moses’ leadership, as well
- 3. **Tuesday:** The Divine “I” (SQ) ○ Ex 5:22 – 6:8 – God’s power & promise to deliver His people; He is the subject & His people are the recipients of what He will do
- 4. **Wednesday:** Uncircumcised Lips (Ryan J) ○ Ex 6:9 – 13 – the Israelites are so downtrodden & discouraged that they are unable to accept God’s promises of deliverance; how to hope in God in the midst of discouragement
- 5. **Thursday:** Like God to Pharaoh (Jill) ○ Ex 6:28 – 7:7 – line of transmission of the message from God to Moses to Aaron to Pharaoh; prophetic insight of how Pharaoh will respond; God will ultimately win

Thursday: Like God to Pharaoh

Exodus 6:28 – 7:7; Ex 4:10; Ex 6:12; Ex 4:21

- Persistent obedience ○ Have you ever pushed beyond your natural boundaries? ○ Faced disappointments, setbacks, and heartache?
 - And yet God still asks you to obey?

- **Moses' experience**
 - God calls at the Mount of Horeb (Ex 3)
- Moses obeys & returns to Egypt (Ex 4)
 - Moses obeys & he and Aaron approach Pharaoh
- Ex 5:1 - "Let My people go to hold a feast in the wilderness"
 - Pharaoh reacts with stubbornness & rebellion
- Open defiance against God ○ Vs 2 - "Who is the LORD that I should obey His voice?"
- Increased oppression & mistreatment of the Israelites
 - The Israelites criticized Moses & their lot worsens (doesn't get better)
- Vs 21 - "Let the Lord look on you and judge..."
 - Moses complains to God
- Vs 22 - You're not holding up Your end of this bargain
- You've failed in everything You said You would do
 - God responds with assurance & promises of deliverance
- Moses sought to encourage the people with these promises
 - Israelites unable to accept & receive God's promise
- Ex 6:9 - the Israelites did not heed Moses, because of "anguish of spirit & cruel bondage"
- PP, p. 260 - Israelites not yet prepared for deliverance. Possessed little faith in God & unwilling to wait on God for freedom
 - Moses complains to God
- Vs 12 - the children of Israel didn't listen to me, why should Pharaoh?
- Today's lesson: "**Persistent Obedience**"
 - Go again - go still - speak what I tell you
 - God doesn't relent - walk in obedience
- **Interlude:** Ex 6:14 - 27
 - Genealogy of Moses & Aaron (not a complete genealogy)
 - Purpose = explain the clans of Levites, with particular note to Moses & Aaron & his descendants

6 keys to Obedience

- Ex 6:28, 29 - "And it came to pass, on the day the **LORD** spoke to Moses in the land of Egypt, (29) that the **LORD** spoke to Moses, saying, 'I am the **LORD**, Speak to Pharaoh king of Egypt all that I say to you.'" ○ Lord = *Yah-weh* = the covenantal, personal, immanent God, who comes close to His people & seeks to redeem them
 - **Key #1: Obedience is based on the command of God**
 - Not on how we feel

- Not on past experiences
- Not on whether we've been victorious before
- “Speak to Pharaoh king of Egypt all that I say to you”
- Ex 6:30 – “But Moses said before the LORD, ‘Behold, I am of uncircumcised lips, and how shall Pharaoh heed me?’”
- Similar complaint to Ex 6:12 – Pastor Ryan’s day
- Lesson: similar to Ex 4:10 (4th objection to God’s call)
 - “...I am slow of speech & slow of tongue”
- Moses’ lack of self-confidence
 - Moses’ fear
 - Moses’ humility
 - Moses’ hesitancy to obey
- **Key #2: Obedience is stronger than any objection or personal feeling**
 - When God calls, walk in obedience
 - Over what we feel
 - Stop rationalizing; simply obey
 - Ex 7:1, 2 – “So the LORD said to Moses: ‘See, I have made you as God to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet. (2) You shall speak all that I command you. And Aaron your brother shall tell Pharaoh to send the children of Israel out of his land.’”
 - God’s answer: I’ll give you a spokesperson
 - Moses’ 4th objection to God’s call (Ex 4)
 - I can’t speak – slow of speech & slow of tongue
 - God’s answer: who made man’s mouth? Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth & teach you what you shall say (Ex 4:12)
- Why was Moses “like God” to Pharaoh?
 - Pharaoh thought he was a “god”
 - Egyptians looked at Pharaoh as the living embodiment of a god
 - Pharaoh was supposed to act as a bridge between the gods & the people
 - Moses, a slave, was higher as God’s servant than Pharaoh
 - Aaron would be Moses’ “mouthpiece” / prophet:
 - Aaron spoke what Moses told him to say
 - Order of transmission for divine messages:
 - God
 - Moses (a type of Christ)
 - Aaron
 - Pharaoh

- Deut 18:18 – “I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.”
 - A Prophet would come like Moses – Jesus Christ
 - God would tell Jesus what to say ○ Just like God told Moses what to say
 - **Key #3: Obedience to God gives status**
 - Moses & Aaron were mere slaves – yet higher than the king of Egypt
- Ex 7:3 – ““And I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt.” ○ Ex 4:21 – God talks about “I will harden his (Pharaoh’s) heart...”
 - 3 types of hardening of Pharaoh’s heart:
 - 1. Pharaoh hardened his own heart
 - 2. Pharaoh’s heart was hardened (impersonal)
 - 3. God hardened Pharaoh’s heart
 - The Hebrew way of thinking = whatever God allows, He does
 - *Sun – melts ice; hardens clay
 - Rom 11:7 – “What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect (Christians) have obtained it, and the rest (unbelieving Jews) were blinded.” ▪ Blinded = allowed to believe their own lies
 - Heb 3:15 – “...Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”
 - Israelites refusing to have faith to enter the promised land (after the 12 spies)
 - **Key #4: Obedience softens the heart**
 - Persistent refusal to obey results in the hardening of the heart
 - Easier & easier to not listen to God if we persistently refuse
 - Ex 7:4, 5 – ““But Pharaoh will not heed you, so that I may lay My hand on Egypt and bring My armies and My people, the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgments. (5) And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I stretch out My hand on Egypt and bring out the children of Israel from among them.”” ○ God warns what is coming: confrontation between God & Pharaoh
 - Pharaoh will resist letting God’s people go
 - God will be victorious
 - **Key #5: Obedience wins in the end**
 - God is always victorious
 - Sin / self might appear to have the upper hand, but it’s temporary
- Ex 7:6, 7 – “Then Moses & Aaron did so; just as the Lord commanded them, so they did. (7) And Moses was eighty years old and Aaron eighty-three years old when they spoke to Pharaoh.” ○
 - **Key #6: It’s never too late to walk in obedience**
 - Moses had failed at 40 – killed the Egyptian

- Moses walking in obedience at 80

6 keys to obedience

- #1: Obedience is based on the command of God
- #2: Obedience is stronger than any objection or personal feeling
- #3: Obedience to God gives status
- #4: Obedience softens the heart
- #5: Obedience wins in the end
- #6: It's never too late to walk in obedience