

Exodus 5 – 6 From Deeper Bondage to Divine Commission

(Follow-up lesson to “Moses’ Excuses & God’s Answers”)

1. Pharaoh’s Harsher Decree (Ex 5:6-19)

1. **“No straw, same tally”** – Straw acted as a binding matrix in the mud; without it:
 - More bricks cracked → quota still due.
 - Time lost gathering straw → workload doubled.
 2. **Possible divine purpose** – By removing Egyptian-supplied straw, God begins to break Israel’s dependence on Egypt and redirect it to Himself.
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2. Israel’s Crushed Spirit (Ex 6:9)

- *“They hearkened not... for anguish of spirit and cruel bondage.”*
 - Psychological weight: lifelong oppression + worsened conditions = hope eclipsed.
 - **Key line to remember:**
“Satan first oppresses us outwardly, then keeps our eyes so fixed on the ground that we forget to look up for hope.”
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3. Moses’ Doubt Revisited (Ex 6:12)

Element	Explanation
“Uncircumcised lips”	Hebrew idiom for unworthy /unfit to speak (cf. Isa 6:5 “unclean lips”).
Reasoning	<i>“If the slaves won’t listen, why would the king?”</i> – Moses measures success by current results rather than by God’s call.

4. God's Response: The "Charge" (Ex 6:13)

- Hebrew צִוָּה (*tsāvāh*) carries three shades:
 1. **Command** – non-optional marching orders.
 2. **Commission** – an official appointment with authority.
 3. **Ordination** – setting apart for sacred service.
 - **Irony of grace:** Moses declares his lips unworthy; God *ordains* those very lips.
 - **New-Testament echo:** The Great Commission (Matt 28:18-20) mirrors this pattern—sent, commanded, and assured of divine presence.
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5. Ministry Principles Drawn

1. **Expect early resistance** – Obedience often intensifies opposition before deliverance.
 2. **Hope amid hardship** – Lift eyes from the mud bricks to the God who sees and acts.
 3. **Commission over qualifications** – Divine calling supplies authority and ability.
 4. **Proclaim freedom** – Like Moses, believers are ordained to tell captives, "*Be free in Jesus' name.*"
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