

WEEKLY WORSHIP GUIDE



Exodus 5:4-23--September 8th, 2024

Sermon Recap:

Increased Oppression

I. Demoralizing God's People

Pharaoh wants the people of Israel not to believe the words of Moses. And everything that he's doing in this passage is designed to do that, to discredit Moses and to demoralize Israel.

a. Work Harder

- Pharaoh removes their straw, but requires they still meet the quota.
 - No straw required them to spend time collecting "stubble."
 - Using stubble created inferior, brittle bricks.
 - Brittle bricks results in more work to replace broken bricks.

b. Work More

- V.4; 5; 7; 8; 9; 11- Pharaoh (the god of Egypt) requires work, work, and more work.
- Yahweh, the God of the Bible, provides rest in Jesus Christ.

c. Don't Listen

- Pharaoh has increased their load in order to break their spirits so that they refuse to listen to Moses. He calls God's words "false."
- Obedience to God doesn't mean that everything will be easy
- You are now an enemy of the world and it will use guerilla tactics and vicious mind-games to squash your faith. But no matter how difficult it gets, you must remember that God still demands our loyalty and devotion to him.

II. Disdain for God's Man

a. Cry to Pharaoh

- The foremen of Israel come to Pharaoh asking for help. They turn away from Moses and God and cry out to Pharaoh, but he doesn't listen and instead calls them "lazy."
- No one can serve two masters. Who is the Lord? Pharaoh or God?

b. Cry Against Moses

- Israel turns on Moses, blaming him for their problems.
- Obedience to God will lead to speaking the truth that offends and causes burdens for those called out of the world.
 - Some will turn on you, but their disdain is not for you, but for God.

III. Discouragement of God's Prophet

a. Questions Asked

- Moses rightly turns to the Lord in prayer, but he accuses God, questioning Him, and believes himself to be more loving/compassionate than God.
- But it was God who had to call and convince Moses to go back to Egypt.

b. Answers Given

- Despite the accusations, the Lord deals with Moses mercifully.
- Exodus 6:1- "see what I will do."
 - Why does God sometimes lead us into suffering and bring us into burdens under burdens? He does it that He might say to us, "Now you will see what I will do. Now you will see what I will do. Salvation belongs to the Lord."

Discussion Questions:

- How does Pharaoh respond to Moses and Aaron's demand?
- What is the significance of straw for bricks?
- Regarding "work," how does the message of the gods of the world differ from the message of the gospel?
- What is Pharaoh's motivation behind increasing Israel's oppression?
- "Obedience to God doesn't mean that everything will be easy." How and why is this true?
- Where does Israel look for help? What does this imply about their heart?
- How do they respond to Moses?
- Ultimately, what is Moses saying in his prayer? Is he right or wrong in praying?
- What is God's response to Moses' prayer?
- What does this response reveal about the character of God?

Application:

- Do you see trials and hardships in your life as a result of obedience to God?
- Do you tend to remain loyal/devoted in those trials or listen to the world? Why?
- Where is the first place that you go for help?
- How do you respond to disdain towards your faith?
- How do you respond to discouragement when "ministry" doesn't go as planned?
- How does Exodus 6:1 encourage you in your ministry/calling?

