



Exodus

From Slavery to Freedom

Lesson #4

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Pharaoh

- Pharaoh was a very stubborn man – even his magicians and officials could see who was God.
- Ex 8:19 The magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart was hard and he would not listen, just as the Lord had said. NIV
- Ex 9:20 Those officials of Pharaoh who feared the word of the Lord hurried to bring their slaves and their livestock inside. NIV

Pharaoh

- Two times he will be on the verge of melting, but is too hard hearted to repent.
- Ex 9:27 Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron. "This time I have sinned," he said to them. "The Lord is in the right, and I and my people are in the wrong. NIV
- Ex 10:16 Pharaoh quickly summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "I have sinned against the Lord your God and against you. NIV

Pharaoh

- “There is no ice so hard as that which melts in the day and re-freezes at night.” Unknown
- The problem Pharaoh had was very much like so many others – his problem was not in his head, but in his heart.
- He knew who God was and knew what God required – he just was unwilling to yield.

The Plagues

- What do we learn from the ten plagues on Egypt?
 - God is able to meet out judgment.
 - God is merciful and longsuffering.
 - God is interested in revealing Himself.

The Plagues

- Ex 7:14 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Pharaoh's heart is unyielding; he refuses to let the people go. 15 Go to Pharaoh in the morning as he goes out to the water. Wait on the bank of the Nile to meet him, and take in your hand the staff that was changed into a snake. 16 Then say to him, 'The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to say to you: Let my people go, so that they may worship me in the desert. But until now you have not listened. 17 This is what the Lord says: By this you will know that I am the Lord: With the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water of the Nile, and it will be changed into blood. 18 The fish in the Nile will die, and the river will stink; the Egyptians will not be able to drink its water.'" NIV

The Plagues

- God will systematically challenge and defeat the gods of the Egyptians.
- He will show himself to be more powerful than their gods, and the only real option for a 'higher power' they had.
- When man has not the true God, he will always make his own gods.

The Plagues

- The plagues would serve as a landmark (standing stone) in the history of Israel to help them to recall God's power to deliver.
- Ex 10:1 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the hearts of his officials so that I may perform these miraculous signs of mine among them 2 that you may tell your children and grandchildren how I dealt harshly with the Egyptians and how I performed my signs among them, and that you may know that I am the Lord." NIV

The Plagues

- Whether you call them standing stones, landmarks, or whether you call it driving down a stake – we need reference points in our Christian journey.
- It is clearly stated here the plagues would be a reference point for the Israelites to point to and say “we were there, and we saw what God did”.
- There are events in our Christian lives that are more memorable than others and can serve to stabilize us if our faith grows weak.

The Plagues

- The experiences of our lives can serve to assure us of our faith when need to be assured.
- Your reference points could be experiences, a times of growth, a healing, a miracle, or perhaps something as simple as a decision.
- The plagues would be reminders of the power and reality of God to the Israel – I think we have the same need as they.

The Plagues

- The first three plagues will be allowed to affect the children of Israel, but none of the others. (blood water, frogs, lice)
- The plagues will also grow in intensity and severity.
- They will go from making people uncomfortable to taking their lives.

The Plagues

- The first four plagues touched the comfort and health of the people.
- The fifth plague touched their property.
(cattle)
- The sixth plague brought intense physical pain.

The Plagues

- The seventh and eighth again touch the property of the Egyptians. (servants, cattle)
- The ninth plague was mental intimidation and confusion. (thick darkness)
- The tenth brought death to the homes of the Egyptians.

The Struggle for Freedom

- The exodus pictures for us the struggle the believer goes through on his way to freedom.
 - Bound in sin with no hope.
 - Messengers come with the good news.
 - We decide to leave, but the door is barred.
 - We need supernatural power to break through the door.

The Struggle for Freedom

- The compromise strategy of Pharaoh is indicative of the devil's strategy to keep the believer bound.
- Ex 8:25 Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "Go, sacrifice to your God here in the land." NIV
- You can worship, but stay here.

The Struggle for Freedom

- Pharaoh tells the Israelites they can worship, but don't fully separate yourself from me.
- Pharaoh thought that they might be satisfied with a little bit of religion mixed with their current life.
- God's plan, however, was for them to leave Egypt (the world) and go to new territory.

The Struggle for Freedom

- 2 Cor 6:17 "Therefore come out from them and be separate , says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you." NIV
- This is a commonly used verse for living a separated life.
- So how much separation is enough?

The Struggle for Freedom

- Luke 11:42 "Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone. NIV
- There is legalistic separation which usually manifests itself in the form of some list of rules.
- Sometimes it's as simple as a list of negative behaviors to avoid. (things I do not do)

The Struggle for Freedom

- Heb 7:26 For such a high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; KJV
- Jesus was considered separated from sinners yet he made friends with them and attended their parties.
- Was he guilty by association, or was he loving enough to invade enemy territory?

The Struggle for Freedom

- A good principle to use regarding separation is this –
 - I am free to minister ‘to’ anyone.
 - I am not free to minister ‘with’ everyone.

Questions / Comments