

07122020. The do part reveals the heart part...

**After gaining the trust of the people of Israel, Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and gave him a message from the Lord, the God of Israel—
The do part reveals the heart part...**

5 After this presentation to Israel's leaders, Moses and Aaron went and spoke to Pharaoh. They told him, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Let my people go so they may hold a festival in my honor in the wilderness."² "Is that so?" retorted Pharaoh. "And who is the LORD? Why should I listen to him and let Israel go? I don't know the LORD, and I will not let Israel go."³ But Aaron and Moses persisted. "The God of the Hebrews has met with us," they declared. "So let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness so we can offer sacrifices to the LORD our God. If we don't, he will kill us with a plague or with the sword."

- **Pharaoh is a mighty king and knows nothing of this God of Israel. He certainly hasn't seen any evidence of the people being in a "god's" favor to this point, and we have already been told that Joseph has long since been forgotten.**
- **To appreciate how disrespectful and arrogant Moses' request was, we must understand the power and authority the Pharaohs claimed. Each Pharaoh was said to be the child of the sun; he was a friend to the greatest gods of Egypt and sat with them in their own temples to receive worship alongside them.**
- **Pharaoh was nothing like a public servant; the entire public lived to serve the Pharaoh.**
- **His power and authority were supreme and there was no constitution or law or legislature higher or even remotely equal to him.**
- **An inscription by a Pharaoh on an ancient Egyptian temple gives us the idea: "I am that which was, and is, and shall be, and no man has lifted my veil." The Pharaoh was more than a man; he considered himself a god, and the Egyptians agreed.**

- **Lastly... This must have been a strange day for Moses. He once walked those same palaces as a prince, and perhaps was in line to sit on the same throne of the present Pharaoh.** *Yet, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.*
- So Pharaoh response is expected—“ who is the LORD? Why should I listen to him and let Israel go? I don’t know the LORD, and I will not let Israel go.””

Who is the LORD? Pharaoh did not have the right heart, but he did ask the right question. The relevant question isn't who Pharaoh is, but who *God* is.

- It seems strange to many that Moses only asked for a three-day weekend; after all, he knew what God wanted to do. Was Moses deceptive in only asking for **three days**?
- Not at all. God had Moses ask first for three days off to test Pharaoh's heart. God gave Pharaoh the chance to agree to something small and to have his heart softened before the big request came.
- Pharaoh was not going to give in easily.
- **Pharaoh isn’t a bit threatened.** He is just upset that the people aren’t working, and he tells the people to get back to work. Then I think he is emphasizing how much work is being lost by having so many people not working

EX 5: 4 Pharaoh replied, “Moses and Aaron, why are you distracting the people from their tasks? Get back to work! 5 Look, there are many of your people in the land, and you are stopping them from their work.” 6 That same day Pharaoh sent this order to the Egyptian slave drivers and the Israelite foremen: 7 “Do not supply any more straw for making bricks. Make the people get it themselves! 8 But still require them to make the same number of bricks as before. Don’t reduce the quota. They are lazy. That’s why they are crying out,

'Let us go and offer sacrifices to our God.' ⁹ *Load them down with more work. Make them sweat! That will teach them to listen to lies!*"

- **The use of straw in making bricks in Egypt during this period is confirmed by archaeology. "Bricks of all sorts have been found in Egypt, some with regularly chopped straw, some with rough roots and oddments, some without straw at all." bricks made of *clay* and *straw* kneaded together, ...**
- **Straw has two qualities that make it essential in strengthening bricks...
1) Straw has an acidic content that mixes with the clay making it stronger. 2) straw has a bonding effect which holds the bricks together better which also makes it stronger.**
- **Pharaoh attributed their desire to go and sacrifice to their God to not having enough to do (vs 8). So he ordered the slave drivers and foremen not to supply the people with straw for making the bricks anymore.**
- **'He figured if they had more work to do, they wouldn't have time to listen to the fanciful dreaming and the "lying words" of Moses and Aaron.**
- **Increased bondage (punishment) creates less time to plan and execute an out...ask any addict**
- **So The Egyptian taskmasters carry out Pharaoh's orders.**

EX 5: 10 So the slave drivers and foremen went out and told the people: "This is what Pharaoh says: I will not provide any more straw for you. ¹¹ Go and get it yourselves. Find it wherever you can. But you must produce just as many bricks as before!" ¹² So the people scattered throughout the land of Egypt in search of stubble to use as straw. ¹³ Meanwhile, the Egyptian slave drivers continued to push hard. "Meet your daily quota of bricks, just as you did when we provided you with straw!" they demanded. ¹⁴ Then they whipped the Israelite foremen they had put in charge of the work crews. "Why haven't you met your quotas either yesterday or today?" they demanded.

- **Instead of freedom** Now the children of Israel are in a worse place than before. **Moses' leadership hasn't made anything better at all.** This was very disappointing to a people who had their hopes raised!
- **We shouldn't be surprised when the greatest challenges come before the greatest victory. At this point, the victory of God for Israel over Egypt seems a long way away.**

EX 5: 15 So the Israelite foremen went to Pharaoh and pleaded with him. "Please don't treat your servants like this," they begged. 16 "We are given no straw, but the slave drivers still demand, 'Make bricks!' We are being beaten, but it isn't our fault! Your own people are to blame!" 17 But Pharaoh shouted, "You're just lazy! Lazy! That's why you're saying, 'Let us go and offer sacrifices to the LORD.' 18 Now get back to work! No straw will be given to you, but you must still produce the full quota of bricks." 19 The Israelite foremen could see that they were in serious trouble when they were told, "You must not reduce the number of bricks you make each day."

In their trouble, the The Foreman did not turn to God; they did not turn to Moses. they looked to Pharaoh the oppressor to solve their oppression problems, how often have we looked to the bondage maker to be the bondage breaker...

- **Some Christians put themselves in the same place when Satan gives them greater oppression, They respond by running to Satan or one of his ways for relief - which increases bondage.**
- **You are Lazy! Lazy!** Pharaoh had no sympathy. He called them lazy. Then he sent them back to work—
- **On the way out the Foremen ran into Moses and Aaron.**

*****Hard work reveals heart work...**

EX 5: 20 As they left Pharaoh's court, they confronted Moses and Aaron, who were waiting outside for them. 21 The foremen said to them, "May the LORD judge and punish you for making us stink before Pharaoh and his officials. You have put a sword into their hands, an excuse to kill us!"

- **They called for God's judgment on Moses and Aaron for making Pharaoh hate them.**

- The Hebrew for “STINK” indicates that they had become a stench, to Pharaoh. At this rate, they would all die for not being able to produce as commanded. This was the crime of Moses and Aaron.

God revealed something about the foremen heart's deception... While the Israelites were slaves to Pharaoh, they somehow thought he was a benevolent oppressor. He liked them to some degree... And if they just appealed to him he would oppress them less because he liked them...

One of the deceptions of the oppressor is to make us think at some level the oppressor is our friend...

2 Corinthians 11:14 But I am not surprised! Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

- Now that the idea of freedom has entered their minds, Pharaoh revealed how he felt about them all along.

***** Satan seems "friendly" to us kinda while He enslaves us; but when we start to seek and be free in Jesus, he will absolutely make life difficult for us.

One can only be freed from an oppressor by someone who can overpower the oppressor!

- So, the faith, excitement, and worship of Exodus 4 is gone pretty quickly. As they now are in the battle and losing...or so it seems
- Remember back in Exodus 4:31 ...

Ex 4:31 Then the people of Israel were convinced that the LORD had sent Moses and Aaron. When they heard that the LORD was concerned about them and had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped.

- **Many of us can have great joy and when we hear what God can Do; but real faith is when our faith wavers not in the battle that is sure to ensue in the doing part. and the doing Part reveals the heart part**

Moses complains about the problem to God. Good Move..

EX 5: 22 Then Moses went back to the LORD and protested, “Why have you brought all this trouble on your own people, Lord? Why did you send

me? ²³ Ever since I came to Pharaoh as your spokesman, he has been even more brutal to your people. And you have done nothing to rescue them!”

- **Moses is good in his example of boldly pouring out his heart to God; but he fell short in remembering God's promise.**
- **Some how he forgot the word God gave him earlier at the Burning Bush in the midst of his complaining**

Ex 3:19 “But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand forces him. ²⁰ So I will raise my hand and strike the Egyptians, performing all kinds of miracles among them. Then at last he will let you go.

- **Everyone wants victory, freedom from bondage but most can't take the personal warfare involved to attain it! Moses is doubting because the script isn't happening as he expected. his script was ask and Pharaoh would say "yes" and God would be glorified.**
- **As far as God is concerned, everything is moving according to plan.**
- **Moses was not even close to the AT LAST This is typical of how things often seem to go when we are trying to be obedient to the Lord.**
- **In the midst of him trying to get out of the job...he missed an important instruction about the Job...How often do we do that...we read the promises of God and skim over the trouble that go along with the attaining of the promises**
- **Satan will use all the tools at his disposal as the god of this world in trying to thwart the will of God, the plan of God.**
- **When God allows him to do this, it is always because the results that will be gained by overcoming these evil attempts will produce greater results than we comprehend..**
- **Keep being obedient and wait for God to gain the victory for us.**
- **Moses replayed in his mind:failure again to deliver his people, remember 40 years ago he tried to deliver... "I'm not the man**
- **There was still unbelief and lack of focus on God that had to be cleared out of Moses.**

- **He must die to believing he is a failure ...and live to obey...regardless of the outcome...**
- **God still will use adversity to train us to trust in Him until the day we go to be with Him in heaven.**

So God reassures Moses with that he will succeed because God will make it so...

EX 6:1 6 Then the LORD told Moses, “Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh. When he feels the force of my strong hand, he will let the people go. In fact, he will force them to leave his land!”

- **God's promise to Moses: Now you will see...is comprised of a tug of war between Pharaoh's gods and Moses God...including 10 plagues and approximately a year's worth of time until Pharaoh *will* let you go. God has remembered what he said. Can Moses remember his God?**

Ex 6: 2 And God said to Moses, “I am Yahweh—‘the LORD.’

- *Yahweh Hebrew...LORD is English*
- **the Hebrew would be pronounced “Yahweh,” and is built on the word for “I am.” reminding us each time that God absolutely is Reality**
- **God or I AM or Jesus or Lord... is utterly independent. He depends on nothing else to cause his will to take place.**
- **God cannot be improved. He is not becoming anything. He is who he is.**
- **God's promise to Moses: Pharaoh *will* let you go. but you know how long that now you will see lasts...approximately a year...according to Jewish tradition (Mishna, Eiduyot ch.2).**
- **God has remembered His covenant. Can Moses remember his God?**
- **God remembers his promises...Can you remember God keeps his promises until his promises manifest... No faith is required with eyesight...Faith is required when we don't see...**
- **end**

