

When Set Backs Happen

Exodus Chapter 5

Exd 5:1 1) Credibility vs 1-2

And afterward Moses and Aaron came and said to Pharaoh, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Let My people go that they may celebrate a feast to Me in the wilderness.' "

- *Moses returned to the place where he lived for 40 years. Have you ever returned to a place that you lived before. Things are the same yet, smaller or the school we walked to 2 miles away was only 2 blocks away.*
- *Moses perspective is different also. The mighty sacred images of Egyptian Gods that used to watch over him and all Egypt are now just sticks and stones as Moses has now met the Great I AM.*

Exd 5:2 But Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, and besides, I will not let Israel go."

- *Pharaoh is a natural man. He asks a great question for an unbeliever "WHO IS THE LORD?"*
- *God / Moses' claims did not have any credibility with unbelieving Pharaoh. This is what we see in unbelievers today.*

Exd 5:3 2) Control vs 3-14

Then they said, "The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Please, let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God, otherwise He will fall upon us with pestilence or with the sword."

Exd 5:4 But the king of Egypt said to them, "Moses and Aaron, why do you draw the people away from their work? Get {back} to your labors!"

Exd 5:5 Again Pharaoh said, "Look, the people of the land are now many, and you would have them cease from their labors!"

Exd 5:6 So the same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters over the people and their foremen, saying,

Exd 5:7 "You are no longer to give the people straw to make brick as previously; let them go and gather straw for themselves.

Exd 5:8 "But the quota of bricks which they were making previously, you shall impose on them; you are not to reduce any of it. Because they are **lazy**, therefore they cry out, 'Let us go and sacrifice to our God.'

Exd 5:9 "Let the labor be heavier on the men, and let them work at it so that they will pay no attention to false words."

- *Moses Meet with resistance. We as people of God need to realize that anything we do for the Lord will be met with resistance. We do have an enemy that desires to thwart the plan of God. That resistance might be internal, it might be external. It might be a simple grappling or a major battle. But the truth is that we will face resistance.*
- *(Joe Focht) "No Spiritual Progress With Out Spiritual Warfare"*
- *Ephesians 6:12 "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high [places]."*
- *2 Corinthians 10:3-5 "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare [are] not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;"*
- *1 Timothy 1:18 "This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;"*
- *Pharaoh Increases their burden. The Straw provided a fiber that strengthened the bricks much like rebar does in concrete. Also, as the straw would deteriorate, it would produce an acid that would continue to harden the bricks.*

- *When we become angry with someone, we have the same tendency, that Pharaoh shows here. We no longer give them or provide for them what we had previously so they can see how much we do for them. (examples our teenagers, our employees)*
- *Pharaoh's attitude is they have too much time on their hands to consider a vacation. Make them work harder.*

- Exd 5:10 So the taskmasters of the people and their foremen went out and spoke to the people, saying, "Thus says Pharaoh, 'I am not going to give you {any} straw.
- Exd 5:11 'You go {and} get straw for yourselves wherever you can find {it,} but none of your labor will be reduced.' "
- Exd 5:12 So the people scattered through all the land of Egypt to gather stubble for straw.
- *Taskmasters obey Pharaoh and increase the difficulty for Israel*
 - *Archeological digs in Ramses & Python show that the bricks at base of structures have straw that was chopped uniformly. A higher layer of bricks have straw that is ripped and is stubble. Then towards the top the bricks have no straw.*
- Exd 5:13 The taskmasters pressed them, saying, "Complete your work quota, {your} daily amount, just as when you had straw."
- Exd 5:14 Moreover, the foremen of the sons of Israel, whom Pharaoh's taskmasters had set over them, were beaten and were asked, "Why have you not completed your required amount either yesterday or today in making brick as previously?"
- Exd 5:15 **3) Questioned** vs 15-23
Then the foremen of the sons of Israel came and cried out to Pharaoh, saying, "Why do you deal this way with your servants?"
- Exd 5:16 "There is no straw given to your servants, yet they keep saying to us, 'Make bricks!' And behold, your servants are being beaten; but it is the fault of your {own} people."
- Exd 5:17 But he said, "You are **lazy**, {**very**} **lazy**; therefore you say, 'Let us go {and} sacrifice to the LORD.'
- Exd 5:18 "So go now {and} work; for you will be given no straw, yet you must deliver the quota of bricks."
- Exd 5:19 The foremen of the sons of Israel saw that they were in trouble because they were told, "You must not reduce {your} daily amount of bricks."
- *The foremen tried to solve the mess Moses made. But to no avail.*
 - *In this power struggle you have God, Pharaoh, Moses, the Taskmasters, the Foremen, and Israel.*
 - *What is the root of the problem?*
 - *Whose problem is it anyway?*
 - *What should the others do until the problem is solved? Why?*
- Exd 5:20 When they left Pharaoh's presence, they met Moses and Aaron as they were waiting for them.
- Exd 5:21 They said to them, "May the LORD look upon you and judge {you,} for you have made us odious in Pharaoh's sight and in the sight of his servants, to put a sword in their hand to kill us."
- *The Foremen are not happy with Moses and Aaron*
 - *Sometimes we believe that when we do the will of God everything will be gr3eat. Often times the going can get a little difficult. Even in the middle of God's will we need to walk in faith and trust.*
- Exd 5:22 Then Moses returned to the LORD and said, "O Lord, why have You brought harm to this people? Why did You ever send me?"
- Exd 5:23 "Ever since I came to Pharaoh to speak in Your name, he has done harm to this people, and You have not delivered Your people at all."

- *A great place to go when the road is rough.*
- *Psalm 40:4 "He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; Many will see and fear And will trust in the LORD. "*
- *Psalm 23:4 "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. "*
- *1 Peter 1:6-7 "In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, {being} more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;"*

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