



EXODUS

FROM BONDAGE TO FREEDOM

BIBLE TEXT | EXODUS 10:1-20

1 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go in to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the heart of his servants, that I may show these signs of mine among them, **2** and that you may tell in the hearing of your son and of your grandson how I have dealt harshly with the Egyptians and what signs I have done among them, that you may know that I am the Lord." **3** So Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh and said to him, "Thus says the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before me? Let my people go, that they may serve me. **4** For if you refuse to let my people go, behold, tomorrow I will bring locusts into your country, **5** and they shall cover the face of the land, so that no one can see the land. And they shall eat what is left to you after the hail, and they shall eat every tree of yours that grows in the field, **6** and they shall fill your houses and the houses of all your servants and of all the Egyptians, as neither your fathers nor your grandfathers have seen, from the day they came on earth to this day.'" Then he turned and went out from Pharaoh. **7** Then Pharaoh's servants said to him, "How long shall this man be a snare to us? Let the men go, that they may serve the Lord their God. Do you not yet understand that Egypt is ruined?" **8** So Moses and Aaron were brought back to Pharaoh. And he said to them, "Go, serve the Lord your God. But which ones are to go?" **9** Moses said, "We will go with our young and our old. We will go with our sons and daughters and with our flocks and herds, for we must hold a feast to the Lord." **10** But he said to them, "The Lord be with you, if ever I let you and your little ones go! Look, you have some evil purpose in mind. **11** No! Go, the men among you, and serve the Lord, for that is what you are asking." And they were driven out from Pharaoh's presence. **12** Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts, so that they may come upon the land of Egypt and eat every plant in the land, all that the hail has left." **13** So Moses stretched out his staff over the land of Egypt, and the Lord brought an east wind upon the land all that day and all that night. When it was morning, the east wind had brought the locusts. **14** The locusts came up over all the land of Egypt and settled on the whole country of Egypt, such a dense swarm of locusts as had never been before, nor ever will be again. **15** They covered the face of the whole land, so that the land was darkened, and they ate all the plants in the land and all the fruit of the trees that the hail had left. Not a green thing remained, neither tree nor plant of the field, through all the land of Egypt. **16** Then Pharaoh hastily called Moses and Aaron and said, "I have sinned against the Lord your God, and against you. **17** Now



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therefore, forgive my sin, please, only this once, and plead with the Lord your God only to remove this death from me." **18** So he went out from Pharaoh and pleaded with the Lord. **19** And the Lord turned the wind into a very strong west wind, which lifted the locusts and drove them into the Red Sea. Not a single locust was left in all the country of Egypt. **20** But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the people of Israel go.

DEVOTIONAL FOR EXODUS 10:1-20

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Pride. Pride is at the heart of all our stubborn, lack of repentance. This was Adam and Eve's problem in the beginning (Genesis 3:5-6). This was Pharaoh's problem (a.k.a. his hardness of heart) (Exodus 7:13,22; 8:15,19,32; 9:17). And this is our problem (Romans 1:21-22). Pride is not just thinking more highly of ourselves than we ought to. It is focusing our eyes on ourselves, whether self-exalting or self-deprecating, instead of God. It's refusing to submit ourselves to God in any given area of our lives (James 4:6-7). How long will we continue to think more of ourselves, to pursue our sinful desires? This is what God asked Pharaoh in verse 3, "How long will you refuse to humble yourself before me?" Unfortunately, as with Pharaoh, we often will continue until everything around us is destroyed.

It's easy to see Pharaoh bargaining with God again here in verses 8-11 and think, "how stubborn can you be?" Like Pharaoh, I have tried to bargain with God in my flesh. I have been in many seemingly hopeless situations in my life where I've pleaded with God to help me and promised things in return if He would help. I would go to church on Sundays, go to Sunday School and then feel great about it. But during the rest of the week, I was no different than anyone else in the world. Somehow going to church was supposed to grant me God's favor. Like Pharaoh, I would plead with God to take away whatever "plague" I was experiencing at the moment. When the worst of it had passed, I went back to being the same sinful, prideful person as before. Like Pharaoh, I never truly humbled myself or submitted myself to God.

Thankfully, God eventually brought me to the end of myself and rescued me through Christ Jesus. I've found that when I humble myself before Him, I can cast all my problems on Him and He cares for me (1 Peter 5:6-7). While it is certain in this life we will experience trouble (John 16:33), it is also certain that "after [we] have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called [us] to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish [us] (1 Peter 5:10)."



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Questions:

1. We all can struggle with pride in some way. Seek the Lord in prayer and ask Him to show you what that looks like in you (Psalm 139:23-24). What are areas that you struggle to submit to God, to apply God's truth to?
2. Is it a new concept for you that thinking poorly of yourself or a lack of self-forgiveness could actually be a form of pride? What does God say that we are as believers (Ephesians 2:10)? Who is the only one who can forgive sins (Ephesians 1:7)?
3. Has there been, or is there, an area where you have bargained with God? Share that with your Journey Group or other biblical community.