



EXODUS

FROM BONDAGE TO FREEDOM

BIBLE TEXT | EXODUS 7:14-25

14 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Pharaoh's heart is hardened; he refuses to let the people go. **15** Go to Pharaoh in the morning, as he is going out to the water. Stand on the bank of the Nile to meet him, and take in your hand the staff that turned into a serpent. **16** And you shall say to him, 'The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, sent me to you, saying, "Let my people go, that they may serve me in the wilderness." But so far, you have not obeyed. **17** Thus says the Lord, "By this you shall know that I am the Lord: behold, with the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water that is in the Nile, and it shall turn into blood. **18** The fish in the Nile shall die, and the Nile will stink, and the Egyptians will grow weary of drinking water from the Nile.'" **19** And the Lord said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their rivers, their canals, and their ponds, and all their pools of water, so that they may become blood, and there shall be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, even in vessels of wood and in vessels of stone.'" **20** Moses and Aaron did as the Lord commanded. In the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants he lifted up the staff and struck the water in the Nile, and all the water in the Nile turned into blood. **21** And the fish in the Nile died, and the Nile stank, so that the Egyptians could not drink water from the Nile. There was blood throughout all the land of Egypt. **22** But the magicians of Egypt did the same by their secret arts. So Pharaoh's heart remained hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said. **23** Pharaoh turned and went into his house, and he did not take even this to heart. **24** And all the Egyptians dug along the Nile for water to drink, for they could not drink the water of the Nile. **25** Seven full days passed after the Lord had struck the Nile.

DEVOTIONAL FOR EXODUS 7:14-25

AUTHOR: MARK LUMSDEN

Pride and selfishness are two sin patterns that I struggle with. These sins are common among addicts and, having been one for over forty years, these were common practice with me. Having lived in that turmoil myself, a prideful/selfish person will put up with hard times and personal discomfort just to be able to say that they did not



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surrender. For many, this is the reason they have never truly humbled themselves and fully surrendered to God. They don't want to deny themselves and pick up their own cross (Matthew 16:24).

God uses many imperfect people "perfectly" to bring glory to Him and to fulfill His purposes. Moses was a murderer and was disobedient to God (Exodus 4:24), yet God chose him and Aaron to be the perfect complement to free the Israelites. Pharaoh was a man who knew nothing of who God was and what He could do (Exodus 5:2). Pharaoh's heart was hard, and he was not about to change his position just because Moses and Aaron told him that God said he must. He did not know who God was. In his prideful, selfish way, he was willing to allow all the Egyptians to suffer just so he could say he did not surrender. The result of God's first plague was all the water in Egypt was made undrinkable. All the water sources were turned to blood (unusable for drinking). This killed all the fish. As they rotted and spoiled, the air was even unbearable; the stench was horrible. Instead of surrendering to Moses' request, Pharaoh simply retreated to his palace and suffered for seven days. He was not finished digging the hole of His arrogance and destruction yet.

We, as flawed broken people, often react the same way to God's instructions and call. In our pride we think we should be in control, but we never are. This world will lead us to places that will have a "stench" to them that is unbearable, but we often put up with it instead of surrendering. Having been a part of re:generation for the last six years I have seen the results when men and women finally throw up their hands and surrender. I personally had that experience, and the redemption of my addictions was instant. As imperfect of a person as I am, God has been able to use me in many ways to bring glory to Him. I would have never imagined that was possible. All He wants is for us to be willing and obedient to His will. So where are you digging?

Questions:

1. Our sin leaves a trail of shrapnel and destruction. What is in your wake and who are you hurting?
2. Jesus wants all of you right now. Is there something you haven't fully surrendered? Why are you still digging?
3. If you have surrendered already, are you being fully obedient to God's call and will for you?