

## The Mission Begins

March 18, 2018  
Exodus 4:18-4:31

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)  
Pastor Mark W. Turner

### Moses prepares to return to Egypt 18-20

- God told Moses: I will send Aaron, but you are still going, take this staff
- Moses goes to Jethro seeking permission, many questions to speculate on
- God tells Moses his enemies are dead – God's grace

### Fathers, Sons, Obedience 21-26

- Liberals claim these verses are out of place - but this is God's Word!
- v22 - Israel is God's firstborn son (1<sup>st</sup> time Israel called firstborn son) - covenant language: Gal 6:16; 3:26; 4:6 Rm 8:14,16; Jn 1:12
- v23 - let my son go, if you refuse God will kill your firstborn son - this is key to understanding this section!
- v24-26 - Moses was disobedient in circumcision, God deals with him

What was Gospel message at that time?

Covenant promise of salvation - Gen 12:1-3

What was sign of that Old Covenant Promise?

Circumcision = Gen 17:9-14

But Moses had failed to apply covenant sign to his son: Ex 4:25

We learn:

- 1) No one has a right to represent God who is disobeying God's revealed will
- 2) Humans often over or under emphasize God's sacraments to their peril

Aside on Sacraments: WSC Q92, 96

- One can place too much confidence in a sacrament
- One can place too little confidence in a sacrament – see as unimportant
- Balance: Jer 9:25-26; Rom 2:28-20; Act 2:38-39; 1 Cor 10:16
- Balance: Don't neglect sacraments commanded by God but remember that they are but a sign and seal of what God does in our hearts by faith!

### Reunion & the Mission Begins 27-31

- Aaron instructed to go meet Moses
- Moses' fears unfounded
- The people believe & worship as God said they would!

Apply: Trust God & carry His message: Isa 55:1; Rom 10:17

## DISCUSS & APPLY

Read Exodus 2:24. It talks about ONE covenant which God made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, rather than three covenants. What does this tell you about the unity of God's purpose in the Bible?

God's covenant with the patriarchs is further mentioned in Exodus 32:13 and 33:1. What additional information is conveyed in those passages? Read Acts 2:17-21 which refers to Joel's prophecy. How are the Old and New Covenants related?

The Westminster Confession says: "There are not therefore two covenants of grace differing in substance, but one and the same under various dispensations" WCF 7.6. Explain.

Read Romans 9:15-18. Paul is talking about God 'hardening' people's hearts, just as he did with Pharaoh in Exodus. What do we learn? What is the relationship between God's sovereignty and the preaching of the gospel?

Like the game of Tri-Bond how do you see that Fathers, Sons and Obedience relate verses 21-26 together?

- Think about Israel being called God's firstborn son. Do you hear the covenant language? Are believer's God's son (children)? Consider: Gal 6:16; 3:26; 4:6 Rm 8:14,16; Jn 1:12
- Why does God want Pharaoh to let His people go? Does that mean that we are created to worship (serve) God rather than the world?

What lessons should we learn from Moses who failed to obey the Old Covenant since we are under the New Covenant?

- Are their sacraments in the New Covenant?
- How can we find a balance between over emphasizing the sacraments and under emphasizing the sacraments?

What mission is God sending you on? How useful is God's Word? Does God promise to be with you? So what?