

When Things Don't Go As Expected

March 25, 2018

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

Exodus 5:1-6:1

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Moses and Aaron go to Pharaoh

1-5

Let My People Go!

- Moses is now bold - he has met God - 5:3
- As Moses walked in faith he discovered God's Word is true - 4:31

Who is the Lord?

- Pharaoh was ignorant & unbelieving – Rom 1:18-21
- the unbeliever is disobedient because he is ignorant, he chooses to remain ignorant so he can keep on being disobedient.

Pharaoh Pushes Back

- intellectual problem - unbeliever doesn't know God's name
- spiritual problem - unbeliever refuses to obey
- societal problem - unbeliever does not care for God's people

Bricks Without Straw!

6-21

Pharaoh increases burdens on God's people

- Exodus = A Spiritual Picture. Sin is a harsh taskmaster.
- God didn't promise this would be easy Gen 15:13
- Hardship and struggle often to show God's glory Jn 9:3
- All are captive to sin Rm 6:16; Tit 3:3; Jn 8:34
- What about you? Anger; lust; selfishness; gossip, etc...
- We need a deliverer better than Moses: Heb 2:14-15

Israel turns to Pharaoh to Renegotiate Terms

15-16

- They didn't turn to God, but their captor.
- 3x refer to themselves as 'your servants'
- Beware live free in Christ, not bondage of legalism Rm 8:14-15; Mt 11:28-29

Israelites attack God's Servants

- they had previously believed God & worshiped 4:31
- we so often are stiff-necked like Israel & reject God's Word Act 7:51-52

Moses Confronts God

22-6:1

At Least Moses Goes to God

- Unlike Israelites, Moses turns to God with his complaints

God's Ways are Sometimes Hard to Understand

- God had warned Moses Pharaoh would not listen: 3:19; 4:21
- But Moses seems to have focused on self... "why me?", "Poor little me"
- Moses took his eyes off God!

God is ALWAYS in control – sovereign

- Moses accused God of not delivering 5:23
- God doesn't explain Himself – 6:1
- But God promises spiritual hope for His people: Jer 29:11-14

DISCUSS & APPLY

Why do you think Moses was now bold enough to go before Pharaoh? What happens when you encounter God? Acts 4:13

How does the world act like Pharaoh in rejecting and not believing? Why are atheists often so vocal about suppressing God talk when they don't believe in God?

Discuss the ways that Jesus is a better deliverer than Moses. How were we captive to sin? Why do we go back to our captor instead of resting in God's deliverance?

How do you act like the foreman and run to your captor (Satan) when trouble comes? How is legalism (adding rules) simply going back under more bondage? Is there a difference between legalism and the disciplines of grace?

Are you trusting God's Word concerning His salvation through Jesus? What does that faith look like in your life? Loving others, speech, actions...

Moses at least went to God. How are we like Moses in complaining and accusing God falsely? Why does God allow us to suffer? Is that a hard thing to understand? How does Jn 9:3 help?

What are ways during times of hardship that you can strengthen your faith and trust in God? How can you help others during their trials?

Read 2 Cor 1:3-7. How do you apply these verses? How does that help you help others?

Read Jeremiah 29:11-14. How does that apply today? Does that mean we won't have trouble or persecution?