

SERMON NOTES

SERIES: Exodus: Set Free to Live Free
TITLE: What Do You Do?

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 7:1-13

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We are in a series on the Book of Exodus from the Old Testament. Why study this book? Exodus is the Old Testament story of the salvation of God's people that points forward to the great salvation that comes to us by faith in Jesus. Exodus helps us better understand what it means for God to *set us free* from our broken, messy lives so we can *live free* in loving, personal relationship with God.

What do you do when you don't want to do what you're supposed to do?

We all encounter situations where we don't want to respond a certain way and would rather take the easy way out.

Summary of Exodus 7:1-13

- Moses is at this point of either being obedient to God's calling, or being disobedient.
- God has called Moses to functionally speak and act *for God* in front of Pharaoh.
- God says he will harden Pharaoh's heart to what Moses will say.
- God will reveal himself to the Egyptians as the one true God through what he will do through Moses next.
- Moses and Aaron meet with Pharaoh. Aaron throws down his staff, which turns into a snake.
- Pharaoh's two sorcerers toss down their staffs and do the same, but their staffs are eaten up by Aaron's staff.
- Pharaoh's heart remains hardened.

Even though Pharaoh doesn't release the Israelites, Moses does not lose hope. He is learning to trust and be equipped by God.

God doesn't call the equipped; he equips the called. Because God himself is fully competent, he calls someone who isn't to put himself on display. He uses Moses' weakness, and he does the same with us. When God calls you to something and you step down right away, you're probably looking at the situation from your perspective and not God's.

There is a sense of calling and 'supposed to' that is bigger than what we want or what we feel.

What is right is greater than what we feel, but what is right should also *inform* what we feel.

God's story, his word, and his promises that have to frame our thinking as Christians.

Stepping out in active faith is part of the transformation of our desire. Sometimes we want our desire to change, and then we'll change our actions, but the Bible doesn't always present us with that paradigm.

For Discussion:

1. Can you think of a time where God called you to do something and you chose the easier road?
2. What about a time where you stepped out in active faith and trusted God to equip you?
3. How can you take steps this week to respond to God's calling, *even if you don't want to*?