



**Prairie
Tabernacle**

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Moses Series #6

Let My People Go!

Exodus 5-6

Exodus 5:1-2 Afterward Moses and Aaron went and said to Pharaoh, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Let my people go, that they may hold a feast to me in the wilderness.'" ² But Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, and moreover, I will not let Israel go."

Exodus 5:6-8 ⁶ The same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters of the people and their foremen, ⁷ "You shall no longer give the people straw to make bricks, as in the past; let them go and gather straw for themselves." ⁸ But the number of bricks that they made in the past you shall impose on them, you shall by no means reduce it, for they are idle. Therefore they cry, 'Let us go and offer sacrifice to our God.'

Exodus 6:1-8 But the LORD said to Moses, "Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh; for with a strong hand he will send them out, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land." ² God spoke to Moses and said to him, "I am the LORD. ³ I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by my name the LORD I did not make myself known to them. ⁴ I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as sojourners. ⁵ Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant. ⁶ Say therefore to the people of Israel, 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. ⁷ I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. ⁸ I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. I am the LORD.'" "

Today: Let My People Go!

Studying the life of Moses to experience God's
Spiritual Principles for Spiritual Life in Christ

1. Who is the LORD? (5:1-5)

- a. *Let my people go* (1)
 - Moses and Aaron appear before Pharaoh
 - Pharaoh was viewed as a god in Egyptian culture
- b. *Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go* (2-3)
 - “Who is the Lord?” is the key question asked by unbelievers
 - The showdown is about who will be God.
- c. *Get back to your burdens* (4-5)
 - Pharaoh thinks Moses and Aaron are slowing down the work
 - He rejects God’s commands

2. This is the Last Straw (5:6-14)

- a. No straw for you! (6-12)
 - Pharaoh thinks the people are lazy and wants to teach them a lesson
 - He withholds the necessary straw and they have to find straw or stubble by themselves
- b. The Israelite foremen are beaten for not producing their quota of bricks (13-14)
 - No mercy

3. When God’s work doesn’t seem to be working (5:15-23)

- a. Blaming Pharaoh (15-18)
 - The Israelites go to Pharaoh with their complaint
 - Note in verses 15-16 they call themselves *‘your servants’* three times!
 - Sin is a terrible slavemaster that gives no respite
 - When you serve sin, misery will come
 - This slavemaster will not help you
- b. Blaming spiritual leaders (19-21)
 - *The LORD look on you and judge, because you have made us stink in the sight of Pharaoh and his servants....*
 - All spiritual leaders will face blame at some point

c. Blaming God (22-23)

- *Oh Lord, why have you done evil to this people*
- *Why did you ever send me?*
- Lord, this isn't working!
- Note that Moses and Israel had been warned that Pharaoh would not listen – Exodus 3:18-20, 4:30

We should expect hardship and roadblocks when doing God's work. He never promised that everything would go smoothly.

4. The LORD Responds: (6:1-8)

a. I am in control (1)

- Pharaoh's time will come

b. **I am the LORD** (2-3)

- The divine name: The LORD - "Yahweh" – I AM

c. I have remembered my covenant (4-5)

d. I will bring you salvation: *I will...* (6-8)

- *I will bring you out*
- *I will deliver you from slavery*
- *I will redeem you*
- *I will take you to be my people*
- *I will be your God*
 - *and you shall know that I am the LORD your God*
- *I will bring you into the land*
- *I will give it to you for a possession*

5. Persevering in Faith (6:9-13)

a. The people did not listen to the LORD's message (9)

- *because of their broken spirit and harsh slavery*

b. The LORD tells Moses to go again to Pharaoh (10-12)

- Moses notes that the people have not listened to him, so how can he expect Pharaoh to listen (and I'm a bad talker!)?

c. The LORD again charges Moses and Aaron to go to Pharaoh (13)

Note: Exodus 6:14-30 contains a genealogy of Moses and Aaron, explaining their family lineage. To our modern ears, it sounds out of place in the flow of the story, but it would have sounded normal to ancient ears.

Our Response

1. Are you discouraged that God's work is not working out like you thought it would? Recognize that problems in God's work are not unusual.

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.
John 16:33

2. Ask God to give you the courage to continue in faith in accordance with His Word.

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" Luke 17:5

Questions for Personal Application & Small Group Discussion

1. How is the question "Who is the LORD?" asked in our culture today?
2. Have you ever had a time where you thought you were doing God's work and things kept getting worse instead of better? Discuss. How did you respond? Who did you blame (if anyone)? How would you respond if you could do it again?
3. Review the "I will's" of the LORD 6:6-8, sermon point #4d. How do these relate to God's plan of salvation? How do these encourage us when we face opposition in God's work?
4. Have you ever had a 'broken spirit' like the people of Israel? Discuss how times like these prepare us for God to use us in greater ways.
5. Pray together for one another, that the Lord would increase your faith and courage in days ahead. Thank Him for His salvation and His promises!

Questions, Comments?

If you have questions or comments about today's message, please send me an email at this address:
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Thanks, Tim



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