



Exodus

Freed to Worship

Exodus 7:1-25

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Sunday Evening Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

Exodus: Freed to Worship

Exodus 7:1-25

Opening Comments

- Turn to **Exodus 7**
- We are continuing our study: **Freed to Worship**
- Last time, we finished chapter 6 – God had repeated His calling of Moses to go to Pharaoh and demand the release of the people of God
- And Moses repeated his objection and hesitation to obey God
- **Exodus 6:30**
- Surprisingly, the Lord doesn't blow up at Moses
- Even though Moses is reluctant, God patiently and lovingly teaches Moses to obey God
- Let's get into tonight's text

Teaching

- **Exodus: Freed to Worship**
- **Exodus 7:1**
- 'I have made you as/like God to Pharaoh'
- 'as/like' is not in the original language
- It reads, 'I have made you God to Pharaoh'
- That is a powerful statement
- The Lord is not saying that Moses is divine = acting on behalf of the divine
- Has been given authority and privileges of God
- Saying that Moses has the authority to command, judge, and punish Pharaoh, and the power to perform miraculous signs
- This would be significant, remember Moses grew up in Pharaoh's court
- He understood how these guys thought
- They believed that they were the incarnation of their gods
- Moses was not divine – he was the human instrument through whom God intended to work in the situation at hand
- Throughout history God has chosen human instruments to carry out His divine work

- This was perfected in the Person of Jesus Christ **Colossians 1:15**
He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

- One of the great mysteries of the incarnation is that God became a man **John 1:14**

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

- God communicates His message through human messengers
- That's what the second half of verse one is telling us
- 'Aaron your brother shall be your prophet'
- God previously told Moses that He would give Moses what to say, and then Moses was to tell Aaron, then Aaron was to tell Pharaoh
- This would have made perfect sense to Pharaoh
- He would do the same thing – he would speak through someone else as a way of separating himself from the common people
- All through this account we are going to see that there is a serious demonic influence at work
- And one of the realities of how Satan works in the world is to copy the things that God does – he is a liar and a counterfeiter
- Throughout Scripture we see that God speaks through spokesmen
- In the Old Testament it was the prophets; Moses, Elijah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and the rest
- The last of the Old Testament prophets was John the Baptist
- Then God Himself spoke in God the Son, Jesus Christ
- Then the Apostles were commissioned to speak on God's behalf

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

- And then finally through the church via the Scriptures both Old and new Testaments
- And then the Lord tells Moses what to say
- **Exodus 7:2**
- 'You shall speak all that I command you.'
- Nothing more and nothing less
- There is a powerful lesson for all of us in that

- Especially for anyone who is called to teach or preach
- But ultimately who God has called to be a witness of His Son Jesus
- We are all called to speak all that God commands us to speak – nothing more and nothing less
- To speak more is to take the place of God
- And to speak less is to rebel against God
- Sometimes people feel they need to say more because they person they are speaking to is not responding
- One of the truths that I have learned that has set me free in my teaching and preaching is that I am not responsible for the response of those I am speaking to
- God will not evaluate based on the outcome of my teaching, preaching, or sharing with others
- He will evaluate me based on my faithfulness to speak all that He commanded me to speak **1 Corinthians 4:1-2**

Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ² Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

- Paul is saying, don't think we are something special, we are just servants of Christ
 - And God is going to evaluate whether or not we were faithful to Him and to the work that He assigned each of us to do **Martin Luther**
- Only the Word of God is entrusted to Moses, not the responsibility of making Pharaoh soft or hard by preaching.**
- All we have is the Word of God – it has been entrusted to us by God and He expects us to share it with others
 - But God doesn't expect us to save them – we couldn't even if we wanted to – that is the work of God and Him alone
 - When I teach and preach, my responsibility is to determine what it is that God wants to say, and then I am to say it as clearly as I know how
 - Once the words leave my lips, my responsibility ends
 - The response of those who hear the message is between them and the Lord
 - Because I care about people, I desire a positive response, and I am saddened if someone does not respond
 - But I don't beat myself up if someone doesn't – that is God's work – it is His responsibility

- It is our responsibility to be faithful to speak as we are commanded by the Holy Spirit – nothing more and nothing less
- Some will not say anything to anyone about Jesus, even though they know God wants them to
- This is often because of a fear of rejection
- Jesus addressed that very thing **Luke 10:16**
He who hears you hears Me, he who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me.
- If you are faithful to share God’s Word with others, you will be rejected by some
- But they are not rejecting you, they are rejecting Jesus, and God the Father who sent Him and you **1 Thessalonians 4:8**
Therefore he who rejects *this* does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.
- We are not responsible for their rejection, but we are responsible for our obedience and faithfulness
- If the Holy Spirit is leading us to share, which He probably is, failure to respond to Him will cost us something
- Turn to **Matthew 13**
- What we sometimes don’t understand is that evangelism has two outcomes
- The first is one that we are familiar with – conversion of unbelievers to faith in Jesus Christ
- The second outcome is equally important
- Jesus had just shared the parable of the sower and the disciples had a question
- **Matthew 13:10-11**
- God knows who will respond to Him and who will not
- He knows whose heart is soft, and whose is hard
- **Matthew 13:12-17**
- The second outcome of evangelism is to confirm sinners in their unbelief
- Sinners will be judged based on the amount of light that they rejected
- They will be judged based on the truth of God that was revealed to them and they rejected
- Turn back to **Exodus 7**

- Some might say, then we shouldn't share anything
- The problem is that we don't know who will respond and who won't
- That is why we must speak as the Holy Spirit directs us
- We must humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God and obey Him, even if it means that some may reject us, maybe even persecute us
- If they reject us, God knew they would, and they are not rejecting you, but God
- If they persecute you, they are actually persecuting Jesus
- If you remember, that is what Jesus said to Saul on the road to Damascus **Acts 9:4-5**

Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"⁵ And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads."

- Our responsibility is to be faithful to God, and when the Holy Spirit directs us to speak, we speak
- The Lord then reminds Moses that the outcome of his speaking to Pharaoh is going to be the second outcome
- **Exodus 7:3-5**
- Here we see the primary purpose of evangelism
- 'And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord'
- There is a God in heaven to whom all of humanity is accountable
- All of the universe exists to glorify God
- And God is most glorified in His work of salvation, but He is also glorified in judgment
- Judgment proves the absolute holiness of God
- In the case of the Egyptians they will not glorify God through salvation, but through judgment
- All of humanity will bow before God
- Either in humble adoration of the God who saved us
- Or in abject terror of the loving God that was rejected, and must respond with eternal judgment
- But all will bow **Philippians 2:9-11**

God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven,

and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and *that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

- You don't need a degree in theology to figure out which one is better
- Then something radical happens
- **Exodus 7:6**
- A switch is flipped within the heart of Moses
- Instead of arguing with God and trying to get out of what God has called him to do, Moses does what the Lord commands
- It is at this point that Moses owns his calling
- God will still have to work some things out of Moses later, but not on the topic of his calling
- Moses accepts God's plan for his life and starts living it
- This is a point that all of us must get to
- Whatever God has called each of us to do, we must accept that calling and live it to our utmost
- Then there is an interesting bit of information
- **Exodus 7:7**
- Usually, in Scripture, when someone's age is given like this it is because something is about to happen or change in their life
- In the case of Moses, he is about to begin to fulfill his calling which will take him through the next forty years of his life
- There is an interesting lesson in here for the older folks, like myself
- It is never too later to do something great for God
- The Lord sends Moses and Aaron back to Pharaoh but first, He gives them some last-minute instructions
- **Exodus 7:8-9**
- The Lord is telling them what is going to happen when they go before Pharaoh
- He is going to ask for a miraculous sign to prove that they are legitimate – that are truly representing God
- And God is going to do it
- Aaron is to throw down the rod, presumably that Moses had at the burning bush, at it will become a serpent
- **Exodus 7:10**
- This first miraculous sign is very significant

- The serpent was a symbol of Pharaoh's authority and power
- You might remember seeing one of the ceremonial headdresses of Pharaoh
- Has an image of a cobra on it
- They worshipped the serpent, especially the cobra
- Well, if we remember our Bible, a serpent was also present in the earliest pages of the Bible
- Satan tempted Eve in the form of a serpent
- This miraculous sign was chosen deliberately by God
- This is a direct frontal assault on Satan and his stronghold in the heart of Pharaoh
- Satan's attacks are always on the weak and unsuspecting
- When God attacks His enemies – He goes straight in against their strongest point
- That is what He is doing here
- Pharaoh thinks his snake god is more powerful than any other god
- He is in for a rude awakening – but first
- **Exodus 7:11-12a**
- 'enchantments' = 'secret arts'
- Some would say that these were illusions, sleight of hand
- Maybe, but as we are going to see, these sorcerers are able to duplicate a couple of the miracles that Moses does
- Satan and his demons have some power over the natural world
- The Bible says that they did what Moses did
- They threw down their rods, and they became snakes
- There is no reason to believe they didn't do exactly what it says they did here
- The Bible says we need to be wary of Satan and his tactics **2**

Corinthians 11:13-15

For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. ¹⁵ Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

- The Bible also teaches us that we do not need to be afraid of Satan because the Holy Spirit lives within us, giving us the power in Christ to resist and overcome Satan just as Moses and Aaron are about to do
- **Exodus 7:12b**
- What an awesome sight this must have been
- Even though the sorcerers could conjure up serpents, they were no match for the power of God
- This should remind us all, that while Satan is immensely powerful, a child of God empowered by the Spirit of God can overcome Him in Christ's name
- This spectacle does not move Pharaoh toward God, but simply causes him to harden his heart toward God
- **Exodus 7:13**
- Pharaoh is doing exactly what the Lord said he would do
- Proving once again that God always knows, and He always knows what is best
- And because Pharaoh will not respond to the commands of God, God is going to begin pouring out His judgments upon not only Pharaoh but all of Egypt
- The first of ten plagues begins in verse 14
- That is for later – we will stop here for the night – God bless you
- **Amen?!**