



Exodus

Freed to Worship

Exodus 11:1-10

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Message #17 of 50 – SN024



CALVARY CHAPEL
FRENCH VALLEY

Sunday Evening Service

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Exodus: Freed to Worship

Exodus 11:1-10

Opening Comments

- Turn to **Exodus 11**
- We are continuing our study: **Freed to Worship**
- So far nine of the ten plagues have fallen upon Pharaoh and the land of Egypt
- Repeatedly, God has told Pharaoh what was expected of him
- And resolutely Pharaoh has hardened his heart toward God and His will
- God, in His sovereign omniscience knew that was going to happen
- And so God prepared to use the hardness of Pharaoh's heart to communicate to the people of God throughout the generations that He is greater than any ruler or nation
- Now we know that God can deliver us from any impossible situation, because God delivered the Israelites with great powerful signs and wonders
- Because what God did in the past, we know He can do it again in the future **Micah 7:15**

As in the days when you came out of the land of Egypt, I will show them wonders.

- Let's get into tonight's text

Teaching

- **Exodus: Freed to Worship**
- Chapter 11 of Exodus is an introduction of the tenth plague
- We won't see the actual plague happen until near the end of chapter 12
- **Exodus 11:1**
- As I have said before God knew exactly what it was going to take to get Pharaoh to finally yield his will to God
- These kinds of verses remind us that God knows everything, nothing is unknown to Him **Hebrews 4:13**

There is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must* give account.

- That is always an encouragement to me because there are times when I don't understand what is going on
- Then the Lord says, 'When he lets you go...' Not if he lets you go, but when
- Not going to simply let you go, will drive you out – no longer welcome in Egypt
- And that is what Pharaoh will do, but he will then rethink that decision and chase after the Israelites to his own doom
- Then the Lord tells Moses something interesting

- **Exodus 11:2**

- While Moses was at the burning bush in chapter three, the Lord had told him that they would be doing this **Exodus 3:19-22**

But I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go, no, not even by a mighty hand. ²⁰ So I will stretch out My hand and strike Egypt with all My wonders which I will do in its midst; and after that he will let you go. ²¹ And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and it shall be, when you go, that you shall not go empty-handed. ²² But every woman shall ask of her neighbor, namely, of her who dwells near her house, articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing; and you shall put *them* on your sons and on your daughters. So you shall plunder the Egyptians.

- There is no explanation given for this
- Why would God want to plunder the Egyptians?
- This may relate to a principle we will see later in the book of **Deuteronomy 15:12-15**

If your brother, a Hebrew man, or a Hebrew woman, is sold to you and serves you six years, then in the seventh year you shall let him go free from you. ¹³ And when you send him away free from you, you shall not let him go away empty-handed; ¹⁴ you shall supply him liberally from your flock, from your threshing floor, and from your winepress. *From what* the LORD has blessed you with, you shall give to him. ¹⁵ You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God redeemed you; therefore I command you this thing today.

- It could be that God was giving them some recompense for all the time that had been slaves in Egypt
- Turn to **Exodus 32**
- Later in Exodus we see these items of gold and silver being used
- In one case the gold was used in an evil way
- In Exodus 32 Moses is up on Mount Sinai getting the Ten Commandments
- After a while the people become impatient

- **Exodus 32:1**
- Moses had left Aaron in charge in the camp
- Aaron had a chance to glorify God, to simply tell the people to chill for a little bit longer
- Just a couple of days after this, Moses comes back
- **Exodus 32:2-6**
- This is an epic failure on Aaron's part
- They have seen God do amazing things
- Not really sure what Aaron is thinking by doing this
- God is not pleased
- **Exodus 32:7-10**
- Moses intercedes on behalf of the wayward children of Israel
- Turn to **Exodus 35**
- One of the things that God instructed Moses about was the building of a tabernacle
- This was the beginning of the organized religion of Judaism
- The Lord told Moses a voluntary offering from the people
- **Exodus 35:4-9**
- Everyone who was willing was to make a donation for the construction of the Tabernacle
- Much of what they used for the building of the Tabernacle probably came from what they had plundered from the Egyptians
- Turn back to **Exodus 11**
- God told them to ask from their neighbors for gold and silver
- Both to bless them and so that they would have an abundance that they could donate to build the Tabernacle
- If God blesses us with an abundance, we should remember, that it might be because He is trying to build something and He wants us to help
- Not only did God tell them to ask, but He prepared the Egyptians to respond
- **Exodus 11:3**
- That is a fascinating statement
- The Lord gave the people of Israel favor in the sight of the Egyptians
- The idea of favor is that they were positively predisposed to them

- God worked in their hearts so that they were willing to be generous to them
- He didn't make them do it, He just did a work in them that made them want to do it
- The Egyptians were not on God's side
- They may not have been openly hostile to God, but they did not believe in Him nor were they intending to obey Him
- God has absolute sovereign control over the universe
- Which means that He can control us
- He did give us free will, but He is perfectly capable of overriding that free will if it suits His needs
- I am not convinced that God will do that with one of His people
- But for someone who is not one of His, He can and will when He chooses to
- When we are dealing with unbelievers, we can ask God to give us favor with them according to His will
- For example, if we were trying to get a permit to build a church, we would be praying for favor with the county officials
- We would be asking God to work in them so that they would be positively predisposed to our request
- That doesn't mean that God will, but we can certainly ask God for favor with unbelievers
- Chapter 10 ended with Moses being driven from Pharaoh's presence under threat of death if he ever saw his face again
- But then verses 4 to 8 appear to be in Pharaoh's presence again
- **Exodus 11:4-8**
- It could be that verses 1 to 3 took place while Moses was standing in Pharaoh's presence at the end of chapter 10, so that verses are a continuation of the conversation at the end of chapter 10
- Hard to say for certain
- Moses announces the tenth plague to Pharaoh
- About midnight the Lord is going to strike down the firstborn son of everyone on the land of Egypt
- Turn to **Exodus 4**
- This is not the first time Pharaoh has heard about this plague

- When the Lord was first telling Moses what He was to tell Pharaoh He said this **Exodus 4:21-23**

And the LORD said to Moses, “When you go back to Egypt, see that you do all those wonders before Pharaoh which I have put in your hand. But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go. ²² Then you shall say to Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the LORD: “Israel *is* My son, My firstborn. ²³ So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I will kill your son, your firstborn.” ’

- We don’t have a record of Moses saying that in his initial meetings with Pharaoh, but we would assume that Moses did what the Lord told him to do
- This plague was a big deal to Pharaoh and to the people of Egypt
- Significance of the first-born son is found in many cultures around the world
- Typically the first-born of the ruler is the heir-apparent of the kingdom
- And that was probably true of Pharaoh
- Combine that with the idea that Pharaoh was viewed and revered as descending from the gods, his first-god son would be Pharaoh in his place someday would also be treated in the same way
- This was a serious threat, because if God carried it out, then it would prove to the Egyptians that Pharaoh was powerless against the God of the Hebrews – couldn’t even protect his own son, how would he protect them
- In verse 7 God again distinguishes between His people and Pharaoh’s people
- This terrible plague was going to bypass the Hebrews
- That while all of the Egyptian households would be wailing and weeping, there wouldn’t even a dog barking in the homes of the Hebrews
- And then when that happens, your people will drive us out of the land
- And then the Lord reminded Moses of what He had told him before
- **Exodus 11:9**
- Pharaoh wasn’t going to listen, no matter what Moses said
- This should be a reminder to us as well
- If we are faithful to God, He may lead us to talk to someone with a Pharaoh-like heart

- Someone who will not respond, no matter what
- What should we do when that happens? How long should we keep doing it?
- We should follow the example of Moses and Aaron
- **Exodus 11:10**
- They continued to do what God told them to do
- This is a lesson that I have learned over the years
- Sometimes the things God tells me to do, don't seem to be working
- It feels like I am just spinning my wheels and not getting anywhere
- And I will ask God what He wants me to do
- And on several occasions in my life, I have not gotten a response back from God
- And what I have learned is that God wants me to do the last thing He told me to do, until He tells me to do something else
- So if God has called you to minister to a hard-hearted Pharaoh, you keep doing it until God tells you to do something else
- Maybe God will soften their heart
- Maybe God is working on your heart
- Maybe God is going to some kind of miracle
- God is calling you to simply, humbly, patiently obey Him
- We are never wasting time when we are doing what God has told us to do, even if it feels like a waste to us
- Next time we will get into teaching on the Passover
- And I will try to draw out the rich symbolism of Christ that is bound up in that most important of the Jewish holidays
- That is for later – we will stop here for the night – God bless you
- **Amen?!**