

Exodus – Our Journey – “Who is the Lord that I should obey Him?”

1. Joke
2. Review
3. Scripture- Exodus 5:1-3 *“Afterward Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, ‘This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival to me in the desert.’”*
2 Pharaoh said, ‘Who is the LORD, that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD and I will not let Israel go.’ *3 Then they said, ‘The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Now let us take a three-day journey into the desert to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God, or he may strike us with plagues or with the sword..”*
 - a. Imagine somehow getting an appointment to see the Grand Khomeini of Iran and then instead of following international protocol you said, “THUS SAYS THE LORD...”
 - i. It would be an utterly audacious and bold statement that disregards the position of the person you are speaking with.
 - ii. And yet, this is what Moses and Aaron did.
 - iii. How they got an audience with the Pharaoh is not certain, but it can be speculated that Moses’ adopted mother (and probably Pharaoh’s sister) was alive.
 - iv. Even then, it is nothing short of a miracle that they were able to gain an audience with the ruler of the most powerful nation on earth.
 1. But then, God is the author of miracles.
 2. I heard Henry Blackaby, author of Experiencing God tells what happened one day after he completed his latest book, “Spiritual Leadership.” He felt impressed by God to pray that God would open a door for him to get a copy of his book into President Bush’s hands. Then out of the blue, he got a call from Pres. Bush’s father, President George Bush, whom he had known quite well. In the course of the conversation, Henry asked if he could get a copy of a book to current president’s hands. The wheels were set in motion and President Bush not only got and read his copy, but encouraged his cabinet to read it as well.
 - a. We heard this testimony about a year and a half ago when Henry Blackaby spoke to pastors who were assembled to hear him encourage us to press forward to make SFC happen in Cleveland.
 - b. Is that any less of a miracle that God would set in motion the wheels of relationships to ensure that the president of the most powerful nation in the world be able to read spiritual principles about leading that nation?
 3. Moses and Aaron got their audience. God was in charge just as He always is.
 4. When you think God has you doing something that seems impossible, remember who you are working for. He knows no limits, and for Him, nothing is impossible.
 - a. Where He calls He provides.
 - b. We saw what God did for Kristina.
 - c. He called her and provided for her, and He worked through her.
 - b. “Who is the Lord?” is the question of the ages.
 - i. Pharaoh was considered by his people to be a god.
 1. For him to acknowledge that there was One greater than himself, would be for him to acknowledge that he was not one himself.
 2. He at least had the intellectual honesty to admit that he didn’t know the God of the Israelites.
 - a. In fact, he didn’t have much reason to believe in their God. After all, they were the slaves and he was the master.

- b. In ancient times, whenever someone conquered someone else, the conquerors god was considered greater than the vanquished people's god by virtue of the victory.
- c. By human standards, Pharaoh is the most powerful man on earth.
 - i. He had the largest, best equipped army on earth, its chariots were the battlefield equivalent of an Abrams tank.
 - ii. He had the most powerful economy on earth. For hundreds of years, they had mobilized their economy to build some of the largest structures ever known to man. They are still called "wonders of the world" as a result.
 - iii. His nation was the best educated, had the most advanced writing, and they had the earliest libraries.
 - iv. Who was he going to bow down to? The God of an enslaved people?
- ii. And while Pharaoh did not know their God, he was not alone.
 - 1. For the next 1500 years, the majority of the earth worshipped gods that their hands had made.
 - 2. Judaism would be alone in the world during that time as being a nation who worshipped the creator God who was invisible, sovereign, and all powerful.
 - a. No other nation would have a god like Him.
 - b. Their gods fashioned in silver, gold and stone, made to look like men and beasts were powerless to save, powerless to do anything.
 - c. Some nations worshipped the creation, the sun, the moon, the stars and the earth. But these too were powerless.
 - d. The Lord, the Great I AM, had chosen an insignificant, enslaved people to become the people through whom He would reveal Himself and His divine majesty and perfection.
- c. *"That I should obey His voice"* –
 - i. **Obedience by unbelievers is an oxymoron.** *(describe what an oxymoron is.)
 - 1. I find it funny sometimes in a twisted way, when I talk with Christians who are frustrated by the conduct and speech of their coworkers who are non-Christians.
 - 2. Equally so, I have to snicker when I see a letter to the editor in the newspaper condemning people whose lifestyles are contrary to the bible.
 - 3. Why? Because it is IMPOSSIBLE for a non-Christian to act like a Christian!
 - 4. It isn't their nature!
 - 5. It would be like expecting my dog to not sneak into my briefcase and eat my brownie (which he did this week). Duh. My dog is acting like a dog. That is his nature. I can train him to conduct himself in a certain level of acceptable behavior, but I should not be shocked when he still acts like a dog! Because that is what he is!
 - 6. Folks, a person who is not a Christian can be trained by society to act nice, to be moral, to have civility. But they will still be non-Christian and they will still act like it.
 - a. If you want to see your co-workers speech cleaned up, stop correcting them! Stop hammering them for being offensive. They might comply with you and make you more comfortable, but they will still be the same.
 - 7. Tell and show them the love of Jesus. Show them who your God is! Until they know Him, there is no way they will obey His voice!
 - ii. **Obedience for a believer should be automatic.**
 - 1. What about you? If you know Him, do you obey Him?

2. Yes, we like Moses, argue with God. But who wins? God does!
 3. Henry Blackaby's testimony, *"When I was about nine I had an encounter with God where He convinced me, absolutely, that He was God and I wasn't. And that has stayed with me until this day. I never approach God except with an understanding that He's God and I'm not. I never argue, never once; I never ask why. I just seek to know and then obey. He has perfect knowledge so He can never be wrong. I just try to understand what He's saying or what He's doing. I'm precommitted that if He ever shows me His will, the answer is yes."*
 4. When folks tell me they no longer feel like they should serve in a certain area, I no longer argue or try to talk them into it.
 - a. Because they have to account to Someone a lot bigger than me.
 - b. I trust that He will convince people of their calling.
 - c. I believe that Christians have the ability to hear God.
 - d. If you have been here very long you know that I also teach them how to hear Him.
 5. Are you walking in obedience?
4. Who do you say that I am? Mark 8:27-29 *"Jesus went out, along with His disciples, to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way He questioned His disciples, saying to them, "Who do people say that I am?" 28 They told Him, saying, "John the Baptist; and others say Elijah; but others, one of the prophets." 29 And He continued by questioning them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered and said to Him, "You are the Christ."*
- a. It is easy to answer the question, "who do other people say that I am?"
 - i. It is easy to deflect the question and put the answer out in the ambivalent, impersonal arena where we are not required to make the choice for ourselves.
 - ii. It is kinda like when we are sharing the gospel with people on the street and they say, "well what about the folks in China?"
 - iii. They deflect the question about themselves and turn it into a philosophical discussion about someone, somewhere else.
 - iv. And while those question have wonderful and serious theological answers, they are not the focus of the conversation.
 - v. The real question for you and I, for every man, woman and child is, "Who do you say Jesus is to you?"
 - b. Do you know Him or just know about Him?
 - i. Unless you experience a spiritual rebirth through the supernatural power of His Spirit, you only have an intellectual knowledge ABOUT Jesus. That will not save you. That will not transform you. And it certainly will not lead you to obey Him.
 - ii. Jesus himself said, "Unless you are born again, you cannot see the kingdom of heaven."
 - iii. That requires dropping ALL preconditions, all reservations, and all of your sense of self-rule.
 - iv. It requires coming to the end of yourself, not unlike Pharaoh will soon do, realizing, acknowledging, and confessing that you aren't god.
 - v. God isn't far off. He is near.
 - vi. He sent His Son to die for your sins so that you would live entirely for Him, and let Him be God and so you would stop trying to be the god of your own life.
 - vii. Will you let Him be God of your life? Will you trust Him instead of yourself today? Will you obey Him today?
 - c. Let's pray.

Gen 15:7 And He said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess it."

Gen 28:13 And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie, I will give it to you and to your descendants.

Ex. 6:7 `Then I will take you for My people, and I will be your God; and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.

Ex. 7:5 "The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch out My hand on Egypt and bring out the sons of Israel from their midst."

1 Ki 20:13 Now behold, a prophet approached Ahab king of Israel and said, "Thus says the LORD, `Have you seen all this great multitude? Behold, I will deliver them into your hand today, and you shall know that I am the LORD.' "

Is 45:18 (creator) For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (He is the God who formed the earth and made it, He established it and did not create it a waste place, but formed it to be inhabited), "I am the LORD, and there is none else.

Eze 12:15 (exiles & judgment) "So they will know that I am the LORD when I scatter them among the nations and spread them among the countries.