

DESERT LESSONS

REVOLUTION

Exodus 5

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March 28 – 29, 2020

Expectation versus Reality

Moses (and Israel) were expecting something different than what happened.

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 wilderness.'" — Exodus 5:1

All we are asking for is a three day journey in the wilderness to worship God ... come on Pharaoh.

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." — Exodus 5:2

Then they said, "The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Now let us take a three day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the Lord our God, or He may strike us with plagues or with the sword." — Exodus 5:3

But the king of Egypt said, "Moses and Aaron, why are you taking the people away from their labor? Get back to your work!" Then Pharaoh said, "Look, the people of the land are now numerous, and you are stopping them from working." — Exodus 5:4 – 5

The Israelite overseers realized they were in trouble when they were told, "You are not to reduce the number of bricks required of you for each day." When they left Pharaoh, they found Moses and Aaron waiting to meet them, and they said, "May the Lord look on you and judge you! You have made us obnoxious to Pharaoh and his officials and have put a sword in their hand to kill us." — Exodus 5:19 – 21

They had this expectation and it was not met.

Moses returned to the Lord and said, "Why, Lord, why have You brought trouble on this people? Is this why You sent me? Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in Your name, he has brought trouble on this people, and You have not rescued Your people at all." — Exodus 5:22 – 23

A few observations about the journey:

- Expectations can often lead to disappointments
Obedience does not play well with our expectations.
- God is not finished
They expected a 3-day festival and God led them to freedom.
Our lives are part of a bigger story.

Three things to take with us on the journey.

1. Hang on to hope.
The secret is Christ in me, not me in a different set of circumstances.
2. Daily gratitude.
Remind yourself of all the good. It is a practice.
3. Do the next thing.

Do The Next Thing — Author Unknown

And all through the hours the quiet words ring, like a low inspiration,

Do the next thing.

Many a questioning, many a fear, many a doubt, hath its quieting here.

Moment by moment, let down from heaven, time, opportunity, guidance are given.

Fear not tomorrow, child of the King, trust that with Jesus,

Do the next thing.

Do it immediately, do it with prayer, do it reliantly, casting all care.

Do it with reverence, tracing His hand, who placed it before thee with earnest command.

Stayed on omnipotence, safe beneath His wing, leave all resulting, Do the next thing.

Looking to Jesus, ever serener, working or suffering be thy demeanor,

In His presence, the rest of His calm, the light of countenance be thy psalm,

Do the next thing.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What part of the message this weekend stuck out to you? Why?
- What does Exodus 5 teach us about obeying God?
- Can you think of times you have suffered for doing the right thing? What happened?
- When have you been tempted to think that not following God would be easier or better?
- Have you ever experienced someone who was suffering become bitter and blame God? Have you ever done this yourself?
- What troubles are you facing? How can you reframe your troubles as a way to rely more on God?
- What is one thing you will change this week to reflect what you have learned?