

“Bondage”
Exodus 5:4-21
(Preached at Trinity, October 22, 2006)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. As we entered into **Chapter 5** we found Moses and Aaron entering into the presence of Pharaoh. We are not told how these two Hebrew men who would have been seen as no more than slaves gained access into the presence of Pharaoh. All things are possible with God. Moses delivers the message from God:
Exodus 5:1 – “Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness.”
2. God’s dealings with Pharaoh serve a two-fold purpose.
 - A. God ultimately does all things for His own glory.
Romans 9:17 – “For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.”
All of God’s dealings in the Exodus are to show Himself mighty in deliverance.
Exodus 20:2 – “I *am* the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.”
 - B. Second, God’s dealings with man are a great demonstration of His mercy.
 1. God didn’t have to deal with Pharaoh to deliver His people. He is infinitely powerful. He could have destroyed the entire nation of Egypt. He could have smitten them all with blindness.
 2. As God deals with Pharaoh we see His gracious mercy. Over and over Pharaoh will be given the opportunity to repent. Over and over he continues to deny God.
Exodus 5:2 – “Who *is* the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.”
3. Pharaoh had no intention of letting the Hebrew children go. In fact, beginning in **Verse 6** Pharaoh does the unthinkable. Not only does he not let Israel go, he greatly increases their burden.
Exodus 5:7-8 – “Ye shall no more give the people straw to make brick, as heretofore: let them go and gather straw for themselves. ⁸ And the tale of the bricks, which they did make heretofore, ye shall lay upon them; ye shall not diminish *ought* thereof: for they *be* idle; therefore they cry, saying, Let us go *and* sacrifice to our God.”
4. Pharaoh was falling deeper and deeper into corruption. When light is rejected man falls deeper and deeper into darkness.
5. As we look upon the condition of Israel we now find that their bondage had now risen to new levels. For over 400 years they had dwelled in Egypt. Their condition grew worse and worse. They were forced to labor in great hardship.
In **Chapter 1** we read,
Exodus 1:13 – “And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour:”

Now we read:

Exodus 5:9 – “Let there more work be laid upon the men, that they may labour therein”

6. All of this current generation of Israel had been born in bondage. It was a cruel and unrelenting bondage. They were trapped with no way to escape
7. Israel’s bondage in Egypt has long been seen as a type of the bondage of the unregenerate man and their deliverance from Egypt foreshadows the sinners’ deliverance in Christ. Tonight I want us to look at that bondage.

I. The unregenerate man is under bondage to sin

John 8:34 – “Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.”

A. When Adam sinned (and we in him) we became servants to sin

1. The lost man can only sin – This doesn’t mean that he sins against his will. It means that his will is bound to sin.

2. The lost man is in love with his sin

John 3:19 – “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”

3. Sin grips us like iron fetters

- a. drugs, alcohol, gambling, pornography, marital infidelity, lying, cheating, stealing – the list is unending

- b. Paul gives a partial list

Galatians 5:19-21 – “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰ Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, ²¹ Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”

4. Sin is a cruel taskmaster

- a. Sin holds us fast as we were deceived into embracing its pleasures

- b. Sin allows no competition; it will not allow us to serve any other master.

B. We are also bound to all the miseries of sin

Spurgeon’s Catechism: #18

Q. What is the misery of that state whereinto man fell?

A. “All mankind by their fall lost communion with God, are under His wrath and curse, and so made liable to all the miseries in this life, to death itself, and to the pains of hell for ever.”

1. Israel’s bondage was cruel, the bitterness was great, the rigor was severe.

2. Sin causes pain and sorrow. God told Adam sin would have terrible results and He tells us.

Romans 6:23 – “For the wages of sin *is* death”

3. There are innumerable sorrows that sin has brought into the earth
 - a. Spiritual sorrow – human beings were not created to be separated from their Creator. The lost man wonders aimlessly seeking meaning and purpose. At the same time he senses in his heart that he is under a great doom.
 - b. Sorrows from sickness and pain
 - c. Sorrows from loss – everything on this earth is decaying. Everything is subject to loss.
Matthew 6:19 – “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal.”
 - d. Sorrow from death – death is the great enemy of human existence Paul refers to it as having a sting like some mythological beast who’s venom causes pain and sorrow.
4. Human beings have been captivated by these miseries and there is no escape.

II. The unregenerate man is under bondage to Satan

- A. We were created to be the servants of God
 1. When Adam and we in him we became the servant of Satan
 2. Satan holds us bound like the demon possessed man at the Gadarene tombs
Mark 5:5 - “And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones.”
2 Timothy 2:26 – “And *that* they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.”
 3. Satan’s kingdom is a kingdom of darkness and every one of its inhabitants stumble around as blind men – we were born into that kingdom
 4. Satan has this world ensnared by his lies and deceits
It is a terrible bondage that brings misery as men blindly grope after the things he promises.
Satan told Jesus,
Matthew 4:9 - “All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.”
 5. Satan directs this world’s opposition to God. He was directing Pharaoh.
- B. Satan does not easily release his grasp upon this world’s inhabitants
 1. Paul referred to Satan as the god of this world
2 Corinthians 4:3-4 – “But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: ⁴ In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”
 2. Satan sees the inhabitants of this world as belonging to him
God says, “This one is mine.” Satan behaves just like Pharaoh in laying claim to his subjects.
Exodus 5:2 – “Who *is* the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.”
 3. As soon as Satan senses God drawing a sinner he cranks up the opposition
 - a. In order for one to believe he has to first hear. Satan hinders the speaker and then he hinders the hearer.

- b. Satan has always sought to hinder the speaker
1 Thessalonians 2:18 – “Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.”
2 Thessalonians 3:1 – “Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have *free* course, and be glorified, even as *it is* with you.”
- c. He also seeks to hinder the hearer
Matthew 13:19 – “When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth *it* not, then cometh the wicked *one*, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.”
- (1) This is exactly what Pharaoh was doing – by increasing the burdens of the slaves he turned them against Moses and Aaron
Exodus 5:21 – “And they said unto them, The LORD look upon you, and judge; because ye have made our savour to be abhorred in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of his servants, to put a sword in their hand to slay us.”
- (2) Satan turns ears away from the Gospel
 Don’t listen to it! Don’t believe it! Forget it, it’s a lie!
 You don’t have time for this! You’re not that bad! Hell’s not for you! Don’t worry!

- III. The unregenerate man is also under bondage to his own depravity
 (This is another aspect to our being under bondage to sin but I want to deal with it separately.)
- A. The bondage of Israel in Egypt is a picture of our own depravity
1. Our depravity manifests itself in two ways:
 - a. The depravity of our nature
 - b. The bondage of our will
 2. The depravity of our nature is total and complete
 - a. The Israelites were unable to do anything of their own accord
 They were forced to do exactly what Pharaoh ordered them to do.
 They had no way to escape their bondage
 - b. The lost man is bound to his nature and must behave accordingly.
 He cannot but sin. His conscience may trouble him and he vows to reform but he soon falls into the same sin.
Ephesians 2:3 – “Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.”
 - c. The lost man has no ability to discern and do the will of God. We are born with a natural propensity to sin

- d. This is why sin is universal.
Romans 3:10-12 – “As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: ¹¹ There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. ¹² They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.”
- 3. We are bound by the bondage of our own will
 - a. This is not to say that we don’t do what we want to do
A man will always do what he wants to do.
 - b. The issue is a man will never of his own will submit his life to God. He is unable to do that which is good for his soul.
 - c. Just as Israel was bound to serve Pharaoh, we are bound to serve sin.
- B. The sad reality is the lost man is pleased to remain in his bondage
 - 1. The truth is, the majority of Israel loved Egypt
 - a. God had a small remnant in faith who were trusting in the promises of God, they were longing for the promised land.
 - b. The majority, however, were satisfied in Egypt. Even after deliverance they longed to return.
Numbers 11:4-6 – “And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat? ⁵ We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick: ⁶ But now our soul *is* dried away: *there is* nothing at all, beside this manna, *before* our eyes.”
 - 2. The lost man is pleased to remain in his sin
 - a. Though sin and Satan are cruel taskmasters and will lead us to sorrow and death, by nature we still enjoy sin and seek its pleasures.
 - b. The lost man is in love with this present world
John 3:19 – “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”
 - c. You could never convince such a man to leave this world he loves?
He is blind to the present darkness of this world

Conclusion:

- 1. What can possibly be done to deliver us from such a bondage?
Jesus has come to accomplish what no one else could accomplish
Acts 26:18 – “To open their eyes, *and* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.”
- 2. Jesus came to deliver His people from darkness
Matthew 4:16 – “The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.”
John 8:12 – “Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”

John 12:46 – “I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.”

3. The nature of effectually calling is this: When the blinders are removed from our eyes. When we are brought from spiritual death to spiritual life we are able to see our bondage. We gladly follow our glorious Deliverer.
4. Have you followed Him?