

No More Straw

Exodus 5: 6-18

The Israelites had lived in Egypt for approximately 400 years. Over that time things had gone from good to bad to the point that by Moses' time the children of Israel were slaves, and badly treated slaves at that. The Egyptian economy had come to depend on their slave labor, and no Egyptian leader in his right mind would acquiesce in their removal. But removal was the message Moses brought to Pharaoh from the LORD God: "Let my people go." Today we're going to study the contrast between the human perspective and God's will, as this new situation unfolded.

I. **The Israelites: Pharaoh's Servants (5:15). . .God's People (5:1)**

¹"Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Let **My people** go

¹⁵Then the foremen . . . cried out to Pharaoh, saying, "Why do you deal this way with **your servants**?"

- A. In laying claim to Israel as his property, Pharaoh is acting as the agent of the devil.
- B. Yahweh claims Israel as His family, whom He is about to free from Pharaoh's slavery.
- C. In a test of wills, the Lord breaks the power of the devil and rescues His family.
- D. Over and over Christ crushed demonic power and finished it by His death and resurrection.

II. **The Israelite Cries: Crying Out in Pain (3:7). . .Crying Out to the LORD (5:8)**

^{3,7}I have given heed to their cry because of their taskmasters, for I am aware of their sufferings
⁸they cry out. 'Let us go and sacrifice to our God

- A. Pharaoh and his taskmasters were literally inflicting pain that made the Israelites scream.
- B. Moses taught them to return to the God of their fathers and ask for His help.
- C. The LORD was more ready to answer them than they were to ask.
- D. Our spiritual brother & priest the Lord Jesus responds daily to our infirmities. (Isa. 53:4, Heb. 4:15)

⁴Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows:

¹⁵For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities;

III. **The Declarations: 'Thus Says Pharaoh' (5:10). . .'Thus Says the LORD' (5:1)**

¹⁰So the taskmasters and their foremen spoke to the people, saying, "Thus says Pharaoh, 'I am not going to give you *any* straw.
¹Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel

- A. "*Thus says the Lord*" carries the authority of what must certainly come to pass.
- B. "*Thus says Pharaoh*" comes across as a pathetic attempt to duplicate God's authority.
- C. If God had wanted the Israelites to have straw, Pharaoh could not have prevented it.
- D. Rev. 3:7 says of Jesus, "...who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens."

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IV. **The Commands: ‘Let *them* Go (5:7). . .’Let *Us* Go’ (5:8)**

⁷“Let them go and gather straw for themselves.
⁸ They cry out. ‘Let us go and sacrifice to our God.’

- A. The Israelites simply related God’s command not to hinder the obedient nation.
- B. In what amounted to mocking, Pharaoh commanded the people “go” and find straw.
- C. Pharaoh’s command was intended to keep the Israelites in Egypt and in permanent slavery.
- D. Jesus, the Son of God, says, “So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”
(John 8:36)

V. **The Realities: No More Straw (5:7). . .No More Bricks (5:14)**

⁷“You are no longer to give the people straw to make brick

¹⁴Moreover, the foremen of the sons of Israel, whom Pharaoh’s taskmasters had set over them, were beaten and were asked, “Why have you not completed your required amount either yesterday or today in making brick as previously?”

- A. This Pharaoh belonged to a line of builders, and a lack of good bricks only hurt his legacy.
- B. Throughout this period, God used his stupidity against him and against Egypt.
- C. Not another word is said about Egyptian bricks after this chapter of Exodus.
- D. Romans 9:17 says, “*For this very purpose I raised you up, to demonstrate My power in you, and that My name might be proclaimed throughout the whole earth.*”
- E. Scripture says in Philippians 4:19, “*And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*”

VI. **The Priorities: ‘Go Now and Work.’ (5:18). . .’Go Now and Worship.’ (5:17)**

¹⁸So go now and work; for you will be given no straw, yet you must deliver the quota of bricks
¹⁷Let us go and sacrifice to the LORD.’

- A. Pharaoh wanted Israel to work for him and his glory.
- B. God wanted Israel to work also, but not before they worshipped Him in reverence and awe.
- C. God’s work has just as much urgency, but the salvation of the world is what is at stake.
- D. Jesus said, “Go, therefore, and make disciples...” (Matthew 28:19)