

Exodus 5-7

May 29, 2011

Introduction:

Moses was born, raised by the Pharaoh's daughter, and then fled into the Sinai (*SIGH-nigh*) desert after killing an Egyptian for abusing an Israelite. God appeared to him in a burning bush and sent him back to Egypt to lead God's people out of bondage. The last chapter closed with his reunion with his brother Aaron and the two of them telling the Jewish leaders what God had sent Moses to do.

5:1-14: What takes place in chapter 5 verses 1 to 14?

- Moses and Aaron go to Pharaoh and ask him to allow the Jews to go three days into the wilderness to celebrate a religious feast. The Pharaoh refuses to allow them to go, says that they are lazy, and then punishes the Jewish slaves by now forcing them to gather the straw to build the bricks that they were building. (Previously, the Egyptians were supplying the straw to make the bricks.) The Jews try to gather straw and fall behind on their brick-making quotas. The Egyptian taskmasters then punish the Jews for falling behind.

5:15-21: What happens in verses 15 to 21?

- Pharaoh confirms to the Jewish foremen that they must maintain the previous quota of bricks even though they now have to gather their own straw. Pharaoh tells them that the change in procedure is a result of Moses and Aaron asking him to give the slaves three days off for worship. When these foremen see Moses and Aaron, they blame them for making their lives as slaves even more difficult.

5:22-23: What occurs in verses 22 and 23?

Moses complains to God. He reminds God that he didn't ask for this job. He also tells God that his coming has not delivered the people, but only made their lives more difficult.

Does doing God's will *immediately* bring you the result that you are hoping for?

- **No.** A farmer plants crops, but he doesn't immediately get the fruit that he is seeking. We have to sow (do God's will) and then *wait* before we reap God's blessing. Doing the will of God might make the immediate situation more difficult. In other words, your life can get harder when you do what is right.

Who can tell us how sowing and reaping works?

- We reap *what* we sow. See Galatians 6:7-8. We reap *later* than we sow. There is distance between investment and return. See James 5:7. We reap *more* than we sow. One seed of corn produces a stalk with multiple ears of corn. See the first part of Hosea 8:7. We determine what we get by how much we sow. See 2 Corinthians 9:6-8.

What is Paul talking about in 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 and what do these verses tell us? *6 Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. 7 You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." 8 And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. NLT*

- He is referring to financial giving. How we give determines what and how much God gives to us. Notice **verse 8** and then let's read **Matthew 6:33**; Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. & **Luke 6:38. 38** Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.”

Does doing God's will *always* bring you the result that you are hoping for?

- **No.** God's will is the right thing to do. We are to do the right thing because it is the right thing to do. The immediate result might be undesirable. Coming "clean" on a lie is the right thing to do, but a period of difficulty usually follows confessing that we have not been truthful. Still, it's the right thing to do.

Does your life get easier or more difficult when you do the will of God?

- In the short term, it can sometimes become more difficult; you now have to collect your own straw. In the long term, though, doing God's will is *always* beneficial to you.

Is doing God's will the easier or the more difficult thing to do? Explain your answer?

- More often than not, doing the right thing is harder to do on the front end and makes life easier on the back end. Sin and living our own way is the immediately easy thing to do, but ultimately it is damaging and disastrous.

Can anyone give us an example of how God's will is usually about "paying" now and "playing" later?

- Disciplining ourselves in the area of exercise, drink, and food is difficult on the front end but results in better health long term.
- Working through the trials and disagreements of marriage is harder than leaving, but in the end it is far more difficult for you and damaging to your children to leave.
- Living in sin is easy and immediately rewarding, but you fail to experience God's best for your life and ultimately go to hell. **See Hebrews 11:24-25; 24** It was by faith that Moses, when he grew up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. **25** He chose to share the oppression of God's people instead of enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin. **2 Corinthians 4:17-18; 17** for our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! **18** So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever. & **Matthew 19:21.** Jesus told him, "If you want to be perfect, go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

6:1-8: What takes place in chapter 6 verses 1 to 8?

- God tells Moses that He is the God of **Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob** and that **He** will keep the covenant **He** made with them. He will deliver them from Egypt and give to them the Promised Land. God tells **Moses** that He will deliver Israel by bringing great judgments upon Egypt.

6:9-13: What happens in verses 9 to 13?

- God tells Moses to return to Pharaoh. Moses complains that Israel doesn't even listen to him, so Pharaoh will not listen either. God tells Moses and Aaron to tell the people again that He will deliver them and to tell Pharaoh to let His people go.

6:14-30: In verses 14 to 30 we learn the names of the heads of the tribes of Israel at that time. We are then told that God again tells Moses to go before Pharaoh.

7:1-7: What do we learn about what God intends to accomplish in chapter 7 verses 1 to 7?

- God will not only deliver Israel from slavery, He will severely judge Egypt and demonstrate to them that He is the "God of all gods".

What do we learn about how God works from verses 1 to 7?

- We learn that God cares about His people, He hears their cries, and He acts on their behalf. We learn that God makes “wrongs” “right”; He is the avenger of those who harm His people. **See Romans 12:17-19.** **17** Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. **18** Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone. **19** Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, “I will take revenge; I will pay them back,” says the Lord. We also learn that God brings glory and honor to Himself whenever He acts. The Jews and the Egyptians will both know that He alone is the Lord.

How old is Moses and what is significant about his age?

- Moses is **80**; he fled Egypt **40 years earlier (Acts 7:23).** **23** “One day when Moses was **forty years old**, he decided to visit his relatives, the people of Israel.

Why do you think that God waited so long to send Moses back to Egypt?

- For **40 years**, Moses was “filled” with all that Egypt (the “world”) had to offer. He was raised as royalty. God then spent **40 years getting “Egypt” out of Moses.** It’s easier to get someone out of the world than it is to get the world out of that person. Moses was likely full of pride in Egypt; 40 years of shepherding had humbled him. In Egypt, Moses thought that he was the man for the job; now he is quite sure that he is not the man for the job (which is part of what makes him the man for the job). Moses will now trust in God, not in himself.

7:8-7: What takes place in verses 8 to 13?

- Moses and Aaron appear before Pharaoh. Aaron now apparently has the staff that Moses brought from the desert. Aaron’s staff becomes a snake. The Egyptian magicians duplicate the miracle, but Aaron’s snake eats their snakes. Pharaoh will not let them go.

What do we learn about “miracles” from these verses?

- Satan can also work miracles. A “miracle” is not necessarily evidence that God is the one doing it.

7:14-25: What occurs in verses 14 to 25?

- At the word of Moses, Aaron strikes the Nile River with the staff and it turns to blood. The Egyptian magicians then duplicate the miracle with some fresh water. Pharaoh refuses to let God’s people go.