

EXODUS

STUDY THREE EXODUS 5-10

Read Exodus 5:1-9

Pharaoh's first response to God's demand is basically "Never heard of him, and I'm not obeying him."

1) Where do you see that same attitude — not fighting God, just ignoring Him — around you today, or in your own life?

Right after Moses obeys God, things get worse for the Israelites, not better. Pharaoh cuts their supplies and makes their workload heavier (v.6-9).

2) Has obeying God ever made your situation harder before it got better? What did you do with that?

Read Exodus 7:1-7

God tells Moses beforehand that He's going to harden Pharaoh's heart, and that this is going to take multiple plagues, not one quick move.

3) Why do you think God chose a long, drawn-out process instead of ending it fast?

Look at God's stated reason in verse 5 - "the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD."

4) What does it tell you about God that part of His plan is making sure people know who He is, even through a hard, drawn-out season?

Over the chapters that follow, God sends nine plagues, often taking aim at a different Egyptian god – the Nile, fertility, the sun, and so on. Every time, Pharaoh's magicians fail to match it, and every time, Pharaoh refuses to let Israel go.

Read Exodus 9:13-16

God tells Pharaoh directly: "I have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth."

5) Does it surprise you that God would say He raised up someone actively resisting Him, in order to display His glory through that resistance? Why or why not?

This means Pharaoh's defiance didn't get in the way of God's plan. Instead, it became part of it.

6) Where in your own life has something that felt like an obstacle to what God was doing actually ended up being used by Him?

Ultimately the Exodus is a shadow of what was to come. When God would decisively bring about His sovereign plan and rule by even using those who reject Him. It takes place at the cross.

Read Acts 2:22-24, Acts 3:17-18 & Acts 4:27-28.

7) Seeing how God has the sovereign wisdom and power to use even the fiercest of rejection for His glory, His plans and the merciful redemption of His people do we trust God enough to believe the His sovereign choices are good, even when we don't understand them?



NEXT WEEK EXODUS 11:1-13:16