

Show Me Your Glory

Lessons from the Life of Moses

Lesson 3 Exodus 5–6

Moses was about to become the mediator between God's people and Pharaoh with a request: *"Let My people go, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness"* (Exodus 5:1). Although it was reasonable, the answer would not be imminent; rather it would come over time, through much suffering, and ultimately test the hearts of two nations.

Read Exodus 5–6. Today we'll look at Exodus 5:1–9.

Day One: The First Encounter with Pharaoh

Upon his first appearance before Pharaoh, two immediate problems became evident to Moses: (1) the man in charge did not believe in God; (2) Moses' actions would mean further suffering for God's people.

1. What was Pharaoh's response to Moses' and request? v. 2
 - a. What did he think of the message brought by Moses and Aaron? See v. 9.
 - b. What would you say was Pharaoh's assessment of the God of these Hebrew slaves?
 - c. Speculate as to why *you* think Pharaoh was so reluctant to let them go.

2. How did Moses and Aaron explain the importance of their mission? v. 3

Pharaoh did not know or respect the God Moses and Aaron represented. Pharaoh considered himself a god—the son of the sun god, Ra. (In addition, the Egyptians worshipped some eighty other gods besides Pharaoh.)

3. Where did Pharaoh place the blame for the people not working? vv. 4–5

4. What increased restrictions did Pharaoh place upon the Hebrew slaves?
vv. 6–9

Pharaoh wanted to make a mockery of Moses and his God by placing even harsher demands on the Hebrews. So now in addition to making bricks, the people would also have to find and collect their own straw without diminishing the daily quota. Their workload had literally doubled overnight!

Selah . . .

Imagine how you would feel if you showed up to help in a crisis and the next thing you knew, your words had resulted in further suffering for the very ones you cared about and were there to assist. What would you try next? Please share your thoughts.

Obedience to God's call is not accompanied by a perfect formula for success. In fact, things may have to get worse before they get better. Sometimes obedience to the will of God may result in difficulty and hardship for those you want to help. The lesson in such circumstances is to look to God and press on, knowing He is sufficient and in control!

Heartbeat . . . (Memory verse) *"For since the world began, no ear has heard, and no eye has seen a God like you, who works for those who wait for him!"* Isaiah 64:4 NLT

Day Two: Impossible Demands, Increased Hardships

Read Exodus 5:10–23 for review.

With Pharaoh's new rules in affect, conditions had rapidly become unbearable for the Hebrew slaves.

1. To what lengths did the people have to go to find straw? vv. 11–12
 - a. What additional stress was forced upon them? v. 13

2. What happened to the Hebrew foremen when the people could not meet their quotas? v. 14
 - a. Using a couple of other Bible translations as a resource, what can you determine about the taskmasters from the above verses?

At this point the Hebrew foremen went to Pharaoh to plead that his demands were not only unreasonable, but impossible.

3. Summarize the heart of their plea in verse 16.

4. What did Pharaoh reiterate to them? vv. 17–18

5. To whom did the Hebrew foremen go to vent their frustration? What message did they convey? vv. 19–21
 - a. What did the foremen fear that Pharaoh would ultimately do to them?

 - b. Did Moses respond to their complaints?

6. Where did Moses go with this problem? What kind of message did he deliver? vv. 22–23

Moses returned to God with further questions. He had arrived in Egypt filled with anticipation that God would deliver His people. Failing in his first encounter with Pharaoh, Moses questioned why God had sent him in the first place. Things had suddenly gone from bad to worse, and the people were still in captivity.

Look closely . . .

In your opinion, had God let His servant down? What had God previously told Moses? See Exodus 3:12 and 19.

God would now take His servant Moses further on in his walk of faith and deeper into the school of prayer. It is there that Moses—and every leader—finds the secret strength and wisdom they so desperately need.

7. *Personal:* Perhaps you're in a situation right now that is not only impossible, it's unbearable. Maybe you're watching things deteriorate right before your eyes. God is watching for you to turn to Him with your questions. He is waiting for you to speak with Him. He wants to speak with you. Tell Him now what you need.

Review this week's memory verse.

Day Three:

God's Promise

God's servants must learn to expect opposition in the world. They must also learn to get alone with God in the secret place; only then will they be able to stand on His promises and accomplish His will.

Read Exodus 6:1–9 for review.

Moses was right in taking the problem to the Lord. God would now encourage His servant with His own words.

1. Who did God remind Moses was going to deliver the people? What was it going to take to accomplish it? v. 1

2. Had God changed since He revealed Himself to Moses at the burning bush? By what name was He still called? v. 2
 - a. With whom did He establish His covenant? vv. 3–4

 - b. What caused Him to remember His covenant promise? v. 5

God encouraged Moses, giving him a message for the people to assure them that He was indeed aware, interested, and involved!

3. Record how many times and in what context the following words are mentioned in verses 6–8:

“I AM”

“I Will”

Three times God reminds the people “I AM” and eight times He promises “I Will”, leaving no room for doubt!

Notice the progression of God's promises with regard to the future:

- *I will rescue you from bondage and will redeem you with outstretched arms* (v.6).
- *I will take you as My people and I will be your God* (v. 7).
- *I will bring you into the land I swore to give* (v. 8).
- *I will give it to you as a heritage* (v.8).

A promise is only as good as the person making the promise. God's promises are backed by His own name and therefore will stand the test of time!

4. Upon hearing such wonderful news, were the people encouraged as Moses was? How did they feel? Why? v. 9

Selah . . .

Who had given up hope of anything changing—*Moses, or the people?* What does God's Word say about why you should place your trust in Him?

- 2 Timothy 2:13

- Hebrews 10:23

Are *you* thinking of giving up? Perhaps rather than *give up*—you should *give in*—surrender fully and completely to the Lord Jesus Christ! Let Him have you and your situation and the possible mess you have made of things. He promises to make all things new—including *YOU!* Will you make that surrender today—right now in prayer?

Review this week's memory verse.

Day Four: God's Perfect Plan

Read Exodus 6:10–30 for review.

When the people's hope for deliverance was dashed, God sent Moses to return to Pharaoh with a message to let the children of Israel go.

1. What was Moses' reply to God? What made him feel this way? v. 12

The text now includes the genealogical record of Moses' origin. (Remember: the book of Exodus is Moses' personal journal of Israel's history as a nation.) Reuben and Simeon are mentioned because they were the firstborn of Jacob's sons (Genesis 29:32–33). Moses quickly focuses his list on the sons of Levi, the tribe to which Moses belonged. The Levite tribe was assigned the priestly duties of overseeing the tabernacle in the wilderness and later the temple itself (see Numbers 4).

2. What category is listed by Moses in verses 20–25?

Later on genealogical records would play an important role in establishing a “who's who” list of those eligible to serve the Lord. These lists are an important reminder to the reader that in God's family there are no coincidences; God always has a plan!

Verses 28–30 are a review of the commission of Moses and Aaron. God had called them and separated them to be His instruments of deliverance. And God would be with them every step of the way!

3. What had God done with Moses at the burning bush that He was now doing with Him in Egypt? v. 28

Often God would preface His command to Moses with the words, “*I am the LORD.*” It is only when we realize who is speaking to us that we are willing to listen.

4. By now did Moses feel equipped for the task at hand? Why? v. 30

- What did Moses need to keep remembering?

Up close and personal . . .

- Think back over your life, your own genealogy. Who were the individuals who raised you and were a part of your development as a person?
- Who were the spiritual influencers that helped you come to Christ?
- Who now are some of the individuals modeling for you what it means to be a Christian? Will you thank God for your heritage and for making you the person you are today? Remember that He has a plan for *you* that is perfect!

Review this week's memory verse.

Day Five:

Praying with Purpose

Selah . . . Be still and consider how to *work out* in your daily life what God has *worked into* your heart through your study of His Word. Then pray each aspect through.

❖ **A Point Pondered:** Is there an example from the lesson or a truth from Scripture that has taken on a new meaning this week? Please note it below.

❖ **A Path Pursued:** Knowledge must be applied in order to make a difference. Name one thing can you act upon in obedience to the Holy Spirit's leading.

❖ **A Promised Possessed:** If God has spoken a particular verse or word of hope to your heart, write it down and pray it back to Him.

❖ **A Praise Proclaimed:** God loves to hear you praise Him! What aspect of God's character particularly blessed you this week? Will you praise Him today?

❖ **A Prayer Presented:** Write out the most pressing request on your heart and lift it to the Lord.

Other requests:

Notes