

3. M. D. 1 1/2

YOUR RELEASE FROM EGYPT

Exodus 5:2

Our sermon today takes place in the palace of Egypt. Exodus 5:2 - Pharaoh said, Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go. This sermon is tied, as a second part, to the sermon of last Sunday. "Saved, But Enslaved" - Exodus 1:7-17. In which we discussed the spiritual experience as being not what God would have it to be - and yet we have the rich promises of God. Living in the world. Living in Egypt.

Today, we want to concern ourselves with (two great steps) that will lead us out of Egypt into and across the Red Sea.

The king of Egypt is seated on the throne. He proudly wears his badge and his throne. His is an imposing figure. He is a great military conqueror. There is a massive group of people ready to do his work. The princess and several women wait in the room with the king. There are soldiers with their spheres.

A little man comes before Pharaoh. This man is a man who will be known for ages to come. His name is Moses. Ex. 5:1. He brings a divine summons to the king. "Thus saith the Lord, let my people go."

Pharaoh had to learn who was Lord. And Moses keeps his date and appears before Pharaoh in Ex. 3 and 4.

Pharaoh gives the response that mankind gives even to this hour. Ex. 5:2. "Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice."

The book of Exodus revolves around the question. The freedom of Israel hung in the balance. The entire Bible centers around this question - it is the one great

question of your life.

The Old Testament declares, the Lord is God. This pronouncement is a great revelation. Gen. 2:4, 15:2, 28:13, 21.

I Peter 2:10, Deut. 4:32,35 - For ask now of the days that are past - which were before thee since the day that God created man upon the earth. And asked from the other side of Heaven unto the other, whether there has been any such thing as this great thing is. God said to go and take him a nation from the midst of another nation. That thou ~~must~~ know that the Lord, He is God. There is none else beside him. "

Elijah drew a line - asked the same question. I Kings 18:21. "Elijah came unto all the people and said, how long halt ye between two opinions. If the Lord be God, then follow him."

"I alone am God"
This was still the issue in Jer. 16:21. Hosea 2:20, Joel 2:27, Mal. 1:6.

The New Testament declares that Christ is Lord. The Lordship is a critical question. Jesus asked the disciples - Mark 8:27 - whom do men say that I am.

The full answer is declared at Pentecost. God hath made that same Jesus whom ye have crucified - both Lord and Christ. Acts 2:36.

Paul at his conversion, Acts 9:5 - who are thou, Lord.

Our own confession, Rom. 10:9 - is that Christ is Lord - the meaning of salvation. Phil. 2:11 - God intends that every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God, the Father.

William Barclay points out in defining the word Lord there is an atmosphere of sovereign authority. It describes the authority of a father over a family. It is the regular word for the Master. As opposed to a slave. And it describes the undisputed owner, of any property. It was also used to describe a military commander. And was an official title of a Roman emperors. The title was very God. So Lord, means boss, master, owner, commander or God.

The Old Testament declares that the Lord is God.

The New Testament declares that Christ is Lord. And so the thing that I pointed out is - who is the Lord that I should obey is a great question that must be answered.

By way of introduction, God demonstrated two things that proved that he was Lord.

1- First, the demonstration of death Now God predicted the outcome. Moses said, let my people go. And God had predicted that he would refuse. And that God would send pestilents, and his heart would be hardened. But at last, God would bring judgement of death - Exodus 4:21-23.

Ex. 7:5 - The Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord.

Now God send judgements varying ways.

✓ First, the plague of the water of the river Nile - was unuseable. This was the God of life for them.

✓ Second, the plague of frogs - the God they worshipped. They soon despised the very sight of them.

✓ Third, the plague of lice. This was aimed at the priests - who were careful not to wear woolen garments - only linen. To avoid lice.

✓ Fourth, the plague of beetles - which was a God that was worshipped. And the people dared not to kill them for they represented deity.

✓ Fifth, the plague of murrain on the cattle. This was against animal worship.

✓ Sixth, the plague of boils - was against the Gods because they had healing science. And they were helpless to heal this affliction.

✓ Seventh, the plague of hail. They had Gods that could control the natural elements. Here was something uncontrollable.

✓ Eighth, the plague of locust. This was aimed at the large number of Egyptian Gods. That they worshipped to insure a good crop.

✓ Ninth, the plague of darkness, that put down their God who was supposed to be the God of their sun.

✓ The final plague (death) to the first born - was directed against Pharaoh himself. For the first born of Pharaoh was more like an incarnation or a God - in that it was supposed to be indestructible. So (God) first brought death,

2 - Second / God demonstrated that he was Lord by his power - not only by death but power. The children of Israel no more had escaped Israel - when Pharaoh rose up with his armies to pursue them and to bring them back.

Now God's power, Ex. 14:4, was directed that the Egyptians might know that I am the Lord. God's people found themselves at the (Red Sea) Pharaoh's (armies) behind

them. And miraculous power through the uplifted hand or rod of Moses. And the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong East wind - all that night - and made the sea dry land - and the waters were divided. Ex. 14:21. The miracle was not in the sea - but in the wind. Remember this, the force of God's mighty wind divided the sea and the people walked over on dry land. The wind ceased at morning and the waters rolled back upon the armies of Pharaoh.

Who is the Lord, that I should obey him. That is the question for you today.

Are you obedient to Christ. Like so many Christians, who reigns as Lord of your life. Does your Saviour - or yourself. Are you slaved - but enslaved. Do you still reside in spiritual Egypt - in the world.

Now there will take at least (two steps) for you to establish Christ as Lord in your life. First, a demonstration of death - and second, a demonstration of power.

✓ Now just (as) God became Lord in Egypt, you must bring judgement of death upon your own Pharaoh's. The flesh, centered in your own nature. For Christ to be Lord in your life, you must face up to the cross. You must be dead in your old self. And the Holy Spirit will provide you power for you to become dead. And you then will become unresponsive to the old nature.

Your old nature is (self-centered). Nothing you can do will make it obedient to God. You cannot lead the flesh into godliness. It does not good to dedicate it, educate it, justify it, consecrate it. You must crucify it - you must die to your-
 self. *Many people misunderstand this.* The self-centeredness of your life must die.

God requires that the old life and self control be put to death.

✓ Now the (second step) you take in making Christ Lord of your life is just as God became Lord in Egypt. You must fully encounter the mighty men of God's impairing spirit. (For Christ to actually reign as Lord of your life, you must be able to obey him as Lord. But no one can do God's bidding apart from the (empowering of the Spirit).) No one can really say that Jesus is Lord, except by and under the power and influence of the Spirit. I Cor. 12:3.

(Most of our resistance to the Holy Spirit's empowering is because of the last word. And that is service. Before you can really demonstrate God's power, you must realize that here is a capacity in service.)

What I am saying is, we have considerable (interest in getting God's power for self benefit. But when we talk about being in power for service to others, there are (few people that want to receive this power. And this is much of our resistance to the Holy Spirit. It is because of this fact.

How (often) we are told what God can do for us.

How (rarely) what God can do through and with us. God stands ready to demonstrate his power. Within the life of any man who wants to serve Christ.

Now these (two things) that are necessary for Christ to really reign in your life as in the life of Israel - coming out of bondage. And we want to examine both of these.

You remember (children) play games - and they say "may I". And everyone would stand in line except one person. The one across the way would say - take four hops.

Take three scissor steps. Take one baby step. Take two giant steps. Now, what I am trying to say is, that Christianity really is no game. The Bible refers to self-centered Christians as babies. For you are still only babies controlled by your own desires and not God's. I Cor. 3:3. Now such people are still in Egypt. They will not get out. And to me there are (two great steps) for Israel getting out of enslavement. They were saved - but they were still enslaved. Now there were two things that they took and did that helped them to get out of that enslavement. And these two things are for (your release) as well.

I. THE CRUCIFIED LIFE

There was death. We illustrate - it was night. The Passover was taking place. Things were quiet. The streets were deserted. The families had gathered inside every household. A freshly slain lamb was there burning on the altar. The lamb had been chosen without spot or blemish. The blood of the lamb had been placed on the side post and the upper post on the front door. The family members had gathered inside - seated around a table, with a clay lamp. They were eating the roasted flesh of the lamb with unleaven bread, and bitter herbs - (symbolizing) their slavery and their years of service in Egypt.

Soon there was silence. And then there was a (mournful cry) from every Egyptian home in Goshen. It echoed through deserted streets. A judgement of death had been passed over Egypt. Because Pharaoh would not let God's people go. The death angel passed over the land. The first born of every household will die. But the (Israelites) home would be spared. Because there is the blood of the lamb. And God's judgement will pass over them. When I see the blood - I will pass over you. Ex. 12:13. You are witnessing the pass over from the 12th chapter of Exodus. And then the judgement of death upon Pharaoh. And this is for the deliverance of Israel out of Egypt.

“ACI ODE OF EGYPT”
of Egypt.

You might take this 12th chapter in Exodus in the Bible and write the word - the cross. You will be immediately impressed how well it typifies the crucifixion. It revealed Calvary. And it looks like the cross was printed on this page. For the cross was God's judgement on sins of their flesh. On our Pharaoh's. And it was the means of our deliverance from Egypt.

The sacrifice of the lamb is a fore-type of Christ. God gave himself. He gave Jesus for our sins as one sacrifice for all times. Heb. 10:12.

And so here was a lamb without spot - or blemish. The precious blood of Christ without blemish. I Peter. 1:19. Here is the crucifixion without question. For Christ is our passover. He sacrificed for us. I Cor. 5:7.

Jesus died to deliver us. And God told Israel to commemorate the pass over night with an annual celebration. They were to recall their deliverance and it shall come to pass when your children shall say unto you, what mean ye by this service. And ye shall say it is the sacrifice of the Lord's passover - who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt. When he smote the Egyptians and delivered our houses. (Ex. 12:26, 27.)

It is so until this present hour. The modern Jew keeps (Yom Kippur) and their day of atonement. And the Jews think of their sins, repent, and ask forgiveness. On this day of pass over.

Paul made reference to the pass over in I Cor. 5 - and emphasized it as a deliverance from the practice of sin. The judgement on sin. V. 3. The putting it away. V. 13. He refers to it as the unleaven bread. Establish Lord as your life and purge out the old nature. And this old nature was put to death on Calvary's cross - Rom. 6:8.

So here is life through death - and this is part of the release. This can be yours.

You might illustrate this with the grafting process of roses, or of oranges - or of other fruit. Some orange trees grow in certain areas - very bitter and sour. But they are (sturdy trees) and they are strong trees. And so what the fruit man does is take this sturdy stock and after the root has become a small tree - he grafts a different natured orange - a sweet orange tree that will produce fruit that he can market. He cuts a cross in the bark of the old tree. Then he puts a bud of a sweet natured orange and grafts it in - into this cross cut. Once it is embedded there - it will grow. And there is the evidence of life. All you really have at this point is a (two natured tree). Nothing else is done - the old root stock and the new natured bud will produce nothing more than just spindly limbs. But the new orange limb would grow - and it would lack strength to how it's up - and would bend down to the ground. But the old stock would grow on and produce it's bitter fruit. Therefore after the sweet orange has been grafted and there is evidence of life, they cut off the old root stock. Once the old stock has been cut off, then the flow of sap, flows into the sweet limb. And with this added help - it grows upward. And after a time, it becomes a tree. The entire tree trunk will straighten and will produce sweet oranges from that old root stock.

But always remember that the old root stock has been cut off. The old sour orange root remains and it continues to try to put out new sour orange limbs. And they are called (suckers). Now these suckers must be cut off. They will make a (desperate struggle within the tree). They will try to recapture the life's sap. And they will try to get dominance.

Now this is a (parallel) - between that sweet (spiritual seedling) in your life, and the old nature of sin. The whole spirit needs a body through which to express

the nature of Christ, in our world. And your body is the root stock which Christ has chosen. But your flesh and your nature produces only bitter fruit. Now God has chosen you as the root stock. But your flesh, your nature produces bitter fruit. Fornication, uncleanness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, wrath, strife, envy, murders, drunkenness. Gal. 5:19-21. However, you become a Christian through the cross. And the Lord's nature is grafted into your life. You have a new nature. And the old nature must now be cut off. If not like the old root stock it will go on producing bitter life and bitter fruit.

That's why Paul said in Eph. 4:22 - put off the old man which is corrupt according to the deceitful lust, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind. And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

You will never know the Lordship and the fullness - apart from the death of the old nature - the old Pharaoh that wants to retain control in your life.

This is the way to victory. What then truly frees us, to obey the Lord.

✓ First, be careful and aware the old nature. Recognize this.

✓ Second, render a judgement - a death upon the old nature. And they that have Christ have crucified the flesh with the affections thereof. Gal. 5:24.

✓ Third, believe God will deaden you to every selfish act. That is, your old evil desires have been nailed to the cross with him and part of you that loves to sin was crushed and fatally wounded. Rom. 6:6, 8.

Be complete with it, You will do this by telling God of your willingness.

To become unresponsive to the world - but that you would like to be honest with God and yourself. You'd like to place these things in a grave. And say Lord, I don't want these things in my life. I die to this and to that.

The Bible says, Luke 5:11 - they forsook all and followed him. He will expect no less of you.

Fifth, resurrect those things only with clear conviction which will be a part of God's plan for your life.

✓ Sixth, ask the Holy Spirit to make Christ Lord in your life. Pull down the old flag of self enthronement. Surrender your life, and begin to allow Christ to become Lord of your life.

When you come to this place in your experience - it will be like the night of the (passover). There will be a death. And Egypt will then be a crucified life.

Like one lady I read about - who sat down to write out her will. She began to think about even the hobby she had in life. Her hobby was to collect wine bottles and beer bottles, and whiskey bottles. Now she said, I do not drink. And for years I have realized this. But when someone enters my home and all my shelves are lined with whiskey and wine bottles - somehow, she says, there is a rebellion that forms in my heart. Deep within me, I know this collection is just something that I wanted to do. But I do not believe that God wanted this for me. And I have the strangest feeling, she said, about this. And she said I began to think about if I was ready to die - to self. And she says, I went out on the back porch, and took a hammer and I broke every single bottle to pieces. My neighbor came running over and asked me if I had lost my mind. But with every blow of the hammer, she said, I felt myself being free. As if the shackle was dropping off. I felt so liberated - it was the best feeling in all my life. It was a thrill. And she says, each day it gets better.