**God’s Confirmation to Moses Sunday Morning**

**Exodus 5:1-7 October 20, 2024**

* This morning we are going to be looking at God’s Confirmation to Moses; how God is confirming Himself and His calling to Moses, and how He does the same for us.

**READ: EXODUS 5:1-8**

* All of us go through seasons of our lives where we have unmet expectations. We thought certain things would be different – we thought when we got saved there would be no problems in our life; we thought perhaps that if we would witness for Jesus people would just pray and accept Jesus as their Savior; and sometimes we think that things will go easier than they actually go in our lives.
* And when we look back at chapter 4 in Exodus, we find that Moses was called of God, and even from the beginning he had his doubts; that God could use him. We looked at those doubts a couple weeks ago, and saw how God had given assurances to Moses as he began his ministry.
* Yet Moses still wondered if he was the right man to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. And every time that Moses had an excuse, God made a way, and God was giving His assurances to Moses.
* Well, as we come to chapter 5, we have the very first instance where Moses is going to walk into Pharaoh and command him to let the people of God go.
* **Illustration:** Imagine walking into your bosses office tomorrow morning and commanding them give you free time off with pay. This was the task that Moses was given by God.
* So let’s notice as we begin this morning **The Confrontation with Pharaoh.**
1. **THE CONFRONTATION WITH PHARAOH**
	* **Read v.1** – Pharaoh was not going to just let the people of Israel go – it was going to take a confrontation.
	* And folks, we need men and women today who are willing to stand up and speak the truth for the Lord Jesus Christ. There was no way Pharaoh was going to give in unless there was a strong declaration made.
	* And I believe that there are a lot of things that we could be doing with our time. There are many things we could be accomplishing in this world, but I believe that the very best thing that we can do with our time is to tell others about the Lord Jesus Christ.
	* Now Moses was not a confrontational person by nature. He didn’t want to pass out the gospel tract to Pharaoh; he didn’t want to get involved and create confrontation. Yet God had commanded him and God said ‘I will go with you.’
	* So notice with me if you that we see that this confrontation was **With Purpose.**
		1. ***With Purpose***
			+ The Bible tells us that Moses went in *and told Pharaoh*; that is he commanded Pharaoh. He is not requesting permission; so God’s message is being declared with boldness and clarity.
			+ And Moses says: “…*Let my people go, that they may hold a* ***feast***[to God] *in the wilderness.”* Here we see that God had a particular message.
			+ You will find in the book of Exodus and Deuteronomy this word *feast* is mentioned 36 times, and it speaks to about the sacrifice they would make to the Lord in the wilderness.
			+ God didn’t just want His children to stop working, He wanted them to go three days journey into the wilderness and there He wanted them to honor Him and worship Him.
			+ Now here’s where it gets interesting – Moses did not give the complete revelation that God had given to him. There was a lapse here in Moses’ leadership…there was one aspect of the message that he did not give.
			+ *“And the Lord said unto Moses, When thou goest to return into Egypt, see that thou do all those wonders before Pharaoh, which I have put in thine hand: but I will harden his heart, that he shall not let the people go. 22 And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the Lord, Israel is my son, even my firstborn: 23 And I say unto thee, Let my so go, that he may serve me: and if thou refuse to let him go, behold, I will slay thy son, even thy firstborn.” –* ***Exodus 4:21-23***
			+ Did you catch that? God was very clear in His message: ‘Moses, I want you to tell Pharaoh to let my people go; I want you to tell him to let them go 3 days journey; I want you to tell them that they are my son – and I want you to tell him, that if he don’t let my son go, I’m going to take the life of his son.
			+ I don’t know about you, but that’s a tough message to give – if you don’t let the people go, your son is going to die. That’s the part of the message that Moses withheld.
			+ And if we’re not careful as Christians, in the world in which we live, we will have a tendency to hold back the message because we don’t want to be offensive.
			+ It’s not always easy to say, ‘for all have sinned.’ But the fact of the matter is, that unless you admit that you are a sinner, and acknowledge that Jesus is the only way to heaven, you don’t have a relationship with God. And even Moses even struggled with that part of the message.
			+ But we are going to see that Moses will get to that later, because God is walking with him and teaching him along the journey. So we see the purpose, but notice secondly it was **With Parameters.**
		2. ***With Parameters***
			+ **Read v.3**. Notice what it says here: “*The God of the Hebrews hath met with us:”* This is not our message; this is God’s message. And God has given us some parameters.
			+ And the first parameter is that he wants us to go three days journey. And the reason this is important, is because God has always wanted His people to separate from the world.
			+ Egypt represents the world; it had 2,000 gods and everything about Egypt was displeasing to God. And God says, ‘If you’re going to worship me, I want you to get out of Egypt, I want you to go 3 days journey and get away from that and worship me.
			+ *“And Pharaoh called for Moses and for Aaron, and said, Go ye, sacrifice to your God in the land.” –* ***Exodus 8:25*** (But then notice Moses’ reply in v.27:
			+ *“We will go three days’ journey into the wilderness, and sacrifice to the LORD our God, as he shall command us.” –* ***Exodus 8:27***
			+ As we see the culture and society degrading around us, the goal of the church is not to make the world comfortable, the goal is that we would come out from the world and be separate unto the Lord.
			+ God doesn’t want the church to adapt! And many churches are adapting to the culture – in the way that they hold services – bringing the world’s music in, and getting away from the preaching of the truth of the Bible.
			+ God has not called us to conform to the world, He’s called us to conform to Himself. And the Bible tells us as Christians:
			+ *“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” –* ***Hebrews 10:25***
			+ Now the word church means “a called out assembly”. God wants His people to come out and assemble. So we see the parallel between the Old Testament and the New Testament. We are here to worship the living God this morning.
			+ So he says, ‘I want you to go three days journey’, then secondly, he says ‘I want you to make a sacrifice.’
			+ Very quickly here this morning, why were they to make sacrifices:
				1. **To Look Forward to the Lamb of God.** Every time a lamb was slain, and every time the blood was shed in sacrifice, it was always a picture of the Lamb of God that was coming. “*The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” –* ***John 1:29***
				2. **They Were to Worship God With Thanksgiving.** *“And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing.” –* ***Psalm 107:22*** – Then thirdly:
				3. **They Were to Come Out to Sacrifice and Make Offerings in the Old Testament**. *“And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.” –* ***2 Samuel 24:24***
			+ David’s purpose in doing this was to make a sacrifice to be able to give unto the Lord. He did not want to give that which did not cost him something. This was the purpose.
			+ And church, God has a purpose for us: we are to be a called out people – His purpose for us to also worship Him; it’s also to be a distinct people and be separate from the world – to live a sacrificial life for him.
			+ So what are some of the ways we can do that? Well, notice what it says in 1 Peter 2:5:
			+ “*Ye also,* ***as lively stones****, are built up a spiritual house,* ***an holy priesthood****, to* ***offer up spiritual sacrifices****, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. –* ***1 Peter 2:5***
			+ So there’s three descriptives of the Christian in 1 Peter 2:5: we are *lively stones*, we are *a spiritual house*, and we are *a holy priesthood.* Everyone one of us can come before Jesus Christ, our high priest – and God says that as believers we make up a holy priesthood.
			+ That means we no longer fall under Old Testament law, but now New Testament law, living under grace, provided by the Lord Jesus Christ.
			+ Aren’t you glad you don’t have to go to a fleshly man to ask for forgiveness…that’s why we call it the New Covenant – the New Testament. So how do we worship Him –
				1. **When We Sing Unto the Lord in Church.** *“By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise* ***to God*** *continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.” –* ***Hebrews 13:15*** – Notice, it is the **sacrifice of praise – to God.** When we sing praises to God in church; when we give thanks to God for all He’s done – that is worship!
				2. **We Worship God With Our Praying**. *“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;” –* ***1 Timothy 2:1-3*** – So we come and we sing, and we pray, and we preach – then notice a third way in which we worship:
				3. **When We Give.** *“But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, and odour of a sweet smell,* ***a sacrifice*** *acceptable, wellpleasing to God.” –* ***Philippians 4:18*** –
			+ This is how we worship God – the One who died for you – in our thankful spirit, in our song, in our giving. All of these ways are ways we express ourselves to God.
			+ So the confrontation with Pharaoh was this: “Pharaoh! Let my people go – let them go three days journey to get away from all this, so they can worship me.”
			+ And I’m glad this morning that we have an opportunity to get away from the world, and come to a place where the songs are about Jesus Christ, where the talking is about Jesus Christ, and the giving is not to the world, but to the Lord Jesus Christ!
			+ So how did the confrontation go over – notice secondly this morning, **The Condition of the World.**
2. **THE CONDITION OF THE WORLD**
	* **Read v.2.** Now, Pharoah response was not, ‘What must I do to be saved.’ It was, ‘Who is the Lord…” Folks, we live in a world that does not know the Lord. We live in a world who first of all, lives in a condition of **Disbelief.**
		1. ***Disbelief***
			+ We live in a day where many people don’t know the Lord. Egypt is alive today. Atheism is alive today. Why? Because they know not the Lord.
			+ In the day of Moses, Egypt had about 2,000 gods which they worshiped, but they didn’t know the most important God – the Name above every Name – the Great I AM.
			+ And they had plenty of opportunity – for Joseph had been in their midst – yet Joseph’s influence was not heard in the way of God’s presence. And Romans 1 speak of our day:
			+ *“Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,” –* ***Romans 1:21-22***
			+ ‘*The fool hath said in his heart there is no God’…*We serve a God who is alive, He’s a Creator God; and to deny His existence is a very foolish thing. And in a country where we have taken God out of schools, and in a country where pray is no longer allowed in public spaces – I want to challenge you this morning, be not ashamed of the gospel of Christ.
			+ What did they find when they found Pharaoh – they found disbelief, but secondly, they found **Disregard.**
		2. ***Disregard***
			+ Notice in v.2 he says: ‘*…****neither will I let Israel go****.’* Then in v.4 he says: ‘***why should I let them from their works****?’* Then in v.7 he says: **Read v.7a.**
			+ He’s literally saying here ‘I’m going to make it even harder on them. I’m tired of hearing about your God, and you just need to conform to our culture.’
			+ And don’t we find that kind of condition in our world today? It’s a condition where people just don’t know the Lord. Then I want you see finally this morning, **The Confirmation for Moses.**
3. **THE CONFIRMATION FOR MOSES**
	* **Read v.22.** Notice Mose’s Question here –
		1. ***Moses’ Question***
			+ He’s saying: ‘Lord, why did you let this happen to everybody, and why did you send me to be the guy?’
			+ And Moses does in verse 22 what all spiritual leaders should do when the going gets tough: he took his burden to the Lord, and he talks to the Lord about the problem he had.
			+ ‘Lord, I knocked on Pharoah’s door and it didn’t go very well. He doesn’t want to come to church with me – he slammed the door in my face.’
			+ Now one thing that Moses forgot, and we forget it too – *“And I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go, no, not by a might hand.” –* ***Exodus 3:19***
			+ God had already told Moses that the king of Egypt will not let you go! God had already told him that. By the way church, the Bible says ‘in the world you shall have tribulation.’ Jesus said your going to have some tribulation – then notice was it says in v.20 of Exodus 3:
			+ *“And I will stretch out my hand, and smite Egypt with all my wonders which I will do in the midst thereof: and after that he will let you go.” –* ***Exodus 3:20***
			+ Yet Moses had forgotten all about that part of the sermon. The hardest thing for a pastor is to preach a sermon and then 10 minutes later some people forget it. Look, God had already told Moses that Pharaoh would not let the people go until he had seen all the wonders…then at the end of v.22 – **Read v.22b – ‘*why is it that thou hast sent me?’***
			+ He’s still in denial. ‘God, why did you send me to Pharaoh?’ Send me to Hawaii – not to Egypt. (**Illustration:** We just ended our Missions Conference this past week and we saw a video of a missionary family that I hope to bring on for support, going to a country where discovered churches are being destroyed if discovered by the government)
			+ Can you imagine – wanting to go where your life could be put in jeopardy. Something is going on in the heart when someone is willing to do that – then notice not only Moses’ Question this morning, but finally this morning **God’s Assurance.**
		2. ***God’s Assurance***
			+ **Read Exodus 6:1-3.** Notice God is reiterating His promises to Moses. And the first thing He does in v.2, He says: **‘*I am the LORD:’***And in v.3: ‘*but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them.’*
			+ The name JEHOVAH here means: ‘the self-existent one, the all-powerful, the eternal.’ And He has to remind Moses. And some of us are just like Moses…
			+ We fear giving out a gospel tract – we’re timid when we pray for our meal in public or at work in front of our co-workers…
			+ And here God is reviewing with Moses – I am the LORD – I’m stronger than Pharaoh – I’m the Alpha and Omega!
			+ *“I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.” –* ***Isaiah 42:8***

**Illustration:** During the signing of the Declaration of Independence, there was one man who had the largest signature on the Declaration – and when John Hancock signed his name, he said: “There, now King George will be able to read that without his spectacles.”

They risked it all when signing that – and they put their name to it so that all will know I’m willing to die for this. And God says to Moses: ‘You don’t have to fear Pharaoh!’

* + - * UBC you don’t have to fear the culture; you don’t have to be afraid of being a witness for Christ. God is saying ‘I am the LORD and I will perform the doing of this!’ And aren’t you thankful this morning that God put His signature on it!
			* So God assures us with his name, and then he assures us with His Covenants: **Read v.4-5.** Now, God made two covenants with His people. First, he made what is called the Abrahamic Covenant –
			* “*Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee: 2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.” –* ***Genesis 12:1-3***
			* Now, some may say this is not a fair covenant – can I tell you about another unfair covenant God has – it’s called the New Covenant – it’s the one that let’s you go to heaven when you don’t deserve to go to heaven – because God made a covenant.
			* God said ‘I’m going to shed my blood for you – and whoever receives Jesus as their Saviour – the blood covers their sin and their under the New Covenant! And God keeps His promises today! He tells us in Ephesians 1:7:
			* *“In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;” –* ***Ephesians 1:7***
			* He says in 1 Peter 4 that we have “*an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,” –* ***1 Peter 1:4***
			* How many are thankful today that God gave a promise, that if we accept His Son, we would get to go to heaven?
			* *“And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:” –* ***Ephesians 2:*6** This is His New Covenant…

**Conclusion:**

* There comes a time when God calls His people to confront Pharaoh and to confront the situations of this life. And what do we do when that happens? We remember the name of the Lord, the ‘I AM that I AM’.
* And we remember His covenants, that is His promises. And we keep going back to the Word of God and reading His Word and being faithful to the Lord.
* Listen, Pharaoh may or may not get saved, and your friend or family member may not get saved, and this world may not change, but we can do one thing for this generation; for your children and your grandchildren – and that is being faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ -
* And this community needs to see a church, that’s going three days journey with God, and worshiping Him, and loving Him, and being faithful to Him.
* We don’t always know when someone will get saved, or when someone will come back to the Lord, but we can always know this – God keeps His promises. He will never leave us; He will never forsake us.