THE REQUEST

TO WORSHIP

 **DATE: 9/10/2017 pm**

**TEXT: Exodus 5:1-3**

**INTRODUCTION**

We begin **Exodus 5** tonight / Last time we saw …

Moses departing for Egypt to carry out God's commands and having a brush with death because he had failed to do what the Lord dictated in the Abrahamic covenant by not circumcising one of his sons

Zipporah performed the bloody surgery and the life of Moses was spared

Moses is pardoned and meets up with Aaron

They then go back to Goshen and meet with the Jewish leadership and convince them of their mission

They believed they were sent from God just as the LORD foretold and thanked the LORD

Let’s read **4:27-31 …**

As we begin **Exodus 5** we begin a new section of this wonderful book

**Chapters 1-4** dealt with Moses’ beginnings and God’s call for him to Serve

**Chapters 5 -14** will focus on the great contest between Moses and Pharaoh

This traumatic ordeal will take a year or so in which we will see a battle of wits, words, and wonders …

Which will culminate in Israel's Exodus from Egypt

As we begin **Chapter 5** Moses delivers God's message as instructed

Pharaoh, however unleashes his fury and increases the pressure on the people of God

He removes their straw for the production of bricks and tells them to get their own

In this section of Exodus, we address the Difficulties that may arise from someone obeying God

It is not all rosy, Serving Christ

Especially in ministry, this may involve hardships

If you are not committed to face them and keep going forward, or if you quit easily, it would be better for you to not get into ministry in the first place

Serving God is not a task for sissy's or people who wet their finger and put it in the air to see which way the winds of opinion are blowing

God is looking for people who will serve him whether they have straw or stubble

Whether we are enjoying the straw of provision and abundance or the stubble of hardship and suffering,

God is looking for men and women who will not quit serving and obeying Him

Let’s stand to read **vs. 1-3** and then pray

As we think on this thought tonight

**“THE REQUEST TO WORSHIP”**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

First, we see …

**I. MOSES’ “REQUEST” OF PHARAOH – v. 1**

***“And afterward Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Let My people go, that they may hold a feast unto Me in the wilderness”***

Picture this scene within the royal palace of Egypt

There sat the great king Pharaoh upon his throne

And there before him stood Moses, a simple shepherd, and Aaron, a slave

Pharaoh was most likely the most powerful man upon earth

The elders of Israel were probably also with Moses and Aaron,

For God had told Moses to take them with him …

**Exodus 3:18 –** ***“And they (the Elders) shall hearken to thy voice: and thou shalt come, thou and the elders of Israel, unto the king of Egypt, and ye shall say unto him, The LORD God of the Hebrews hath met with us: and now let us go, we beseech thee, three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God”***

Pharaoh would no doubt have granted an interview to the elders of the nation, thinking that some official business needed to be discussed

Whatever the case, there stood a group of slaves before the great king of Egypt, and for what purpose?

To demand that he free them so they could make a religious pilgrimage to worship and serve their God out in the wilderness

God was preparing their way

The steps of Good men are ordered by the Lord

**Psalm 37:23 *– “The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way”***

He guides and cares for our lives as we endeavor to live for Him

**Lamentations 3:22, 23 - “… *It is of the LORD’S mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness”***

**A. The ‘Source’ of the Request**

***“Thus saith the LORD God of Israel”***

We see God using Moses and Aaron to make a Request

It’s much more than a Request though

***“and told Pharaoh,”***

Although we see these men courteously asking …

Because of the Authority that Pharaoh processed

This Request comes from Someone with far Greater Authority

Pharaoh may not have thought so

But he would find out it was so, not soon after

For Jesus is the King of Kings and LORD of Lords

There is No Authority Greater!

**Matthew 28:18 *– “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth”***

**B. The ‘Purpose’ of the Request**

***“Let My people go, that they may hold a feast unto Me in the wilderness”***

Their Request was one of Simplicity and Confrontation

Two key things I’d like to note here

**1.** Simplicity

The Purpose of the Request was for the People of God to go forth and Worship

The Request to Pharaoh is Direct and Simple

***“Let My people go that they may hold a feast unto Me”***

The word *“****feast”*** speaks of *a festival*

It would be a time of Worship for Israel

It was not an unreasonable request

Pharaoh was not an atheist / Pharaoh worshipped many gods (But all the wrong ones)

Pharaoh would have understood the Request

**2.** This was also a Request that would cause Conflict

Pharaoh's demeanor toward Israel is not good

Yet courageously, and by faith, Moses and Aaron walk into the cobra pit

God has already warned them that Pharaoh would not let them go!

Yet they did what the Lord commanded any way

May God help us all to have this same kind of courage!

God said - ***“Let My people go”***

But Pharaoh's claim would have been – *“They’re my people”*

God said that He was God

Pharaoh believed that he was a god and should be treated like one

Definitively a Conflict starting to brew here

Pharaoh is being told to obey Someone else

This would have been a new experience for him for sure

He has been giving the orders all his life

Now he is being given orders by shepherds

His Authority is challenged and his Pride is Pricked

His Pride will lead to the Plucking of his own life and Egypt's Prosperity

Sinful Human Pride does not like to be told what to do!

And just like Pharaoh, we all have it

And we need to guard against it

**Proverbs 11:2 – *“When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom”***

**Proverbs 29:23 – *“A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit”***

**MOSES’ “REQUEST” OF PHARAOH**

**II. PHARAOH’S “RESPONSE” TO MOSES – v. 2**

***“And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go”***

Paraphrased he said – *“Who is this God of yours that I should obey His voice? Who is He to tell me what to do? I don't know your God and I'm not going to do what He says”*

In laymen’s terms he says – *“No Way Jose”*

The LORD was thinking *– “We will see about that!”*

Little did Pharaoh realize that his choice, this crucial decision was going to open up a can of worms

Some of the Greatest Destruction to one nation this world has ever seen

Again I remind you that Our Choices affect more than just us

**A. Realize how important one Decision is**

Little do we realize sometimes how one decision can change the whole course of our lives

The decision to obey or disobey, to sin or remain pure, to yield to the Lord or fight Him

Are many times life-changing decisions that have consequences that affect us for the rest of our lives and sometimes for all of eternity

**Ill.** Aaron Burr was an American politician. He was the third Vice President of the United States, serving during Thomas Jefferson's first term. A revival swept through the university at Princeton, in New Jersey. Aaron Burr came to the president of the university and said: *“Mr. president, I have made up my mind to consider the claims of Christ. Now, Mr. President, what would you do?”* The old president of the university gave him this advice. He said, *“Burr, if I were you, I would wait until the excitement of the revival has subsided, and then I would think it out carefully.”* Aaron Burr bowed his head a moment, and then he said, *“Mr. President, that is exactly what I will do.”* And, it is stated as a fact, that never again in his life did he express a desire to be a Christian, and they say he died without it happening**.**

We need to make sure God's blessing and approval are on our decisions and choices by studying His Word, praying for direction, and getting wise counsel

If you’re not sure of your Salvation, you need to get that settled asap

**II Corinthians 6:2 *– “(For He saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured (helped) thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)”***

The attitude of Pharaoh of *“I don't know or need God”* is the same attitude of most people today

We live in the *"Don't Tell Me What to Do!"* generation

People will spurn God's authority only later to regret it

 **II Thessalonians 1:8 – “*In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:”***

**B. Realize our Accountability**

Realize that we all are going to be accountable to the Lord one day

**Hebrews 9:27 *– “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”***

**Romans 14:12 –*“So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God”***

He is our Judge

Pharaoh asked – *“Who is the Lord?”*

He is about to find out

The point of the plagues and the exodus will be ***“that he might know”***

Pharaoh will come to know who Jehovah is

**Psalm 83:18 *– “That men may know that Thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the most high over all the earth”***

But when he does, it won’t be in a pleasant way

**MOSES’ “REQUEST” OF PHARAOH**

**PHARAOH’S “RESPONSE” TO MOSES**

**III. THEIR “APPEAL” TO PHARAOH – v. 3**

***“And they said, The God of the Hebrews hath met with us: let us go, we pray thee, three days' journey into the desert, and sacrifice unto the LORD our God; lest He fall upon us with pestilence, or with the sword”***

An Appeal is made to Pharaoh for permission to worship

They ask him to Reconsider his Decision

*Let us go three days and sacrifice unto the Lord lest He deals with us*

They needed to be out of sight of the Egyptians because the animals they were going to sacrifice were considered sacred to the Egyptians

They would have incited a riot

Can you imagine what kind of protest Jerusalem will have from PETA when they build their New Temple and begin the daily sacrifices?

Moses was concerned about this

**Exodus 8:26 – “*And Moses said, It is not meet so to do; for we shall sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians to the Lord our God: lo, shall we sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians before their eyes, and will they not stone us?***

**A. God dealt in Mercy and Patience with Pharaoh**

Moses’ Appeal was a sign of God’s Mercy & Grace

God's judgment wasn’t immediately placed on Egypt

Why not?

The answer is God is Longsuffering in grace, giving Pharaoh an opportunity to Repent

Before God deals in wrath, He always acts in Mercy

For Example …

-- Noah warned of the Flood for 120 years

-- The prophets warned the nation of Israel of captivity before it came

-- Jonah warned Nineveh before judgement came and the city repented

-- Jesus warned His people of the destruction of the Temple

It is for reasons like these that the teaching which says that God chooses certain people to be saved and picks others to go to Hell does not make any sense

This teaching has no Justice, Mercy, or Love

And goes contrary to the Character and Consistent Behavior of God in the Bible

God is not a respecter of persons

It also contradicts numerous verses in the Bible

Not only did God deal in Mercy & Grace with Pharaoh

But …

**B. God deals in Mercy and Patience with Us**

Don’t forget God dealt in patience and mercy with us when we were unbelievers

**Romans 5:8 *– “But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”***

If someone is without the Lord, their opportunity is NOW to trust Him for forgiveness and Eternal Life

The Bible warns us of the wrath to come to those who die without Christ

**I Thessalonians 1:10 *– “And to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come”***

Someday the door of salvation will be shut and it will be too late to be saved

God wants us to repent and believe on Him now

**Acts 17:30 – “*And the times of this (man’s) ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:”***

There are a couple of things here

-- Rejoicing

The Feast in **v. 1** points to Rejoicing

The sacrifices make the rejoicing possible

True worship involves sacrifice

We have joy because of what the Lord has done for us on the cross

-- Separation

Another matter we will note here is when we worship the Lord …

We are to Separate from Egypt and what it represents

We cannot truly worship with unbelievers or idolaters, or use carnal, worldly, sensual methods without corrupting our worship

We cannot truly worship in a church that denies the great doctrines of the faith or tolerates the wicked lifestyles of a sinful society

It’s not going to happen because sin grieves and quenches the Holy Spirit which in turn, hinders the true worship of Jesus Christ

**CONCLUSION**

Sensuality and Carnality attract carnal Christians or unbelievers to a ministry

It is very difficult to have an evangelistic, Christ-honoring

… ministry when your church is full of carnal Christians or unbelievers

Yes, we are to reach the lost

We want to do this, but we are not going to reach them and disciple them to be like the Lord Jesus Christ if we are living just like them,

Compromising with corruption, or watering-down our preaching won’t save sinners

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