FORGETTING TO FEAR

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**DATE: 9/30/2018 pm**

**TEXT: Exodus 9:27-35 (v. 30)**

**INTRODUCTION**

There is an old Native American story told about an Eagle. The story goes something like this: An eagle perched himself on a piece of floating ice just above Niagara Falls after fishing for the day. The swift current carried the ice and its majestic passenger closer to the edge of the great precipice. The cries of other birds and animals, warning the eagle of the danger that lay ahead were to no avail. *“I have great and powerful wings,”* the eagle boasted. *“I can fly away at any time. I can handle it.”* Suddenly the edge of the falls was only feet away. The torrent of water rushed the ice over the great falls. The eagle spread his powerful wings to mount up over the impending doom only to discover too late, that his claws had become frozen to the piece of ice. Do I have to say more? The bird plunged to his death.

Friends, no one is immune to the consequences of sin

Pharaoh has found out again that he is powerless

(if I may) His feet were frozen in the ice

His pride and rebellion were destroying him and his country

Whether we are a king or a pauper, we are not immune to the sting of sin

Are your feet … freezing in the ice?

Has sin taken hold of you?

Pharaoh is going to cry out, ***“I have sinned”***

Will everything be all right now, that he did?

If you cry out to God, *“I’ve sinned,”* will everything be ok?

Surprisingly, the answer is No!

Unfortunately, sometimes this is not enough to get us out of trouble

Let’s stand and read **vs. 27-35** together this evening

And think on this thought …

**“Forgetting to Fear”**

**Proverbs 23:17 – *“Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the LORD all the day long”***

**~~~Prayer~~~**

**I. THE “RESPONSE” – vs. 27,28**

Moses Pronounces the 7th Plague

The Plague comes exactly as Announced

And now we see Pharaoh’s Response

**A. Pharaoh sends for Moses – v. 27**

***“And Pharaoh sent, and called for Moses and Aaron, and said unto them, I have sinned this time: the LORD is righteous, and I and my people are wicked”***

Pharaoh is crying, "Uncle!"

This is the first time he admits his quilt

Mr. Perfection admits imperfection,

He says ***“I’ve sinned”***

Someone can find forgiveness when they make this admission, yet, others don’t

What makes the difference?

The answer is the attitude and genuine repentance of the person making the admission

**II Corinthians 7:6-10 …**

A number of people made this admission in the Bible

Unfortunately, many did not demonstrate genuine repentance

**1.** Balaam

[**Numbers 22:34**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Nu+22%3A34) **– *“And Balaam said unto the angel of the Lord, I have sinned; for I knew not that thou stoodest in the way against me: now therefore, if it displease thee, I will get me back again”***

Balaam was an example of double-minded man

**James 1:8 – *“A double minded man is unstable in all his ways”***

After his confession, he went on to sin willingly and worked for the wages of unrighteousness

He tried to serve two masters, God and money and could not

[**Matthew 6:24**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+6%3A24) **– *“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon”***

Balaam's confession was worthless because he did not mean it

He was caught, but not convicted

**2.** King Saul

[**I Samuel 15:24**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+15%3A24) **– *“And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice”***

Saul was a picture of an insincere man

He confesses and then gives an excuse

***“I feared the people”***

Insincerity was a Fault of Saul

He loved to please people and agree with the crowd

Some folks insincerely confess sin to please others in order to get them off their back

Admission of sin is worthless if it is not genuine

God is not fooled by someone’s phoniness

**3.** Achan

[**Joshua 7:20**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jos+7%3A20) **– *“And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against …***

***… the Lord God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done:”***

Achan's confession is doubtful

He was an example of a death-bed confession which creates doubt

One question that comes to mind when death-bed decisions are made is …

*Did they really mean what they said?*

Doubt is created because the admission or profession of faith, has not been Tested by the person's life

**4.** Judas Iscariot

[**Matthew 27:4**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+27%3A4) **– *“Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that”***

Judas' admission was made in a time of remorse and despair

He knew what he had done

He saw the treachery of his betrayal

He knew he was condemned

Someone who is lost, can change their hopelessness into hope by trusting the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour

**5.** Job

[**Job 7:20**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Job+7%3A20) **– *“I have sinned; what shall I do unto Thee, O thou Preserver of men? why hast Thou set me as a mark against Thee, so that I am a burden to myself?”***

Job pictures the repentance of a saint

Job loved God, but he was a sinner like everyone else

Christians are sinners saved by grace but they still have to contend with their Old nature

We have to be Honest with ourselves and Honest with God

If not, we will fall away and that is not a good place to be

[**I John 1:9**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Jn+1%3A9) **– *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”***

**6.** The Prodigal Son

[**Luke 15:18**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+15%3A18) **– *“I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,”***

This is an example of a blessed confession of a lost man

He is truly repentant

His Father saw him with eyes of compassion, ran with legs of grace, embraced his neck with arms of mercy, and kissed him with kisses of love

Pharaoh said, ***“I’ve sinned”***

Do you think he really mean it? I don’t think so!

Pharaoh is a picture of a hardened heart whose confession is born in the storms of life, but dies in the calm

The storms of Disease, Danger, and Desperation will drive people to cry out to God,

But when life returns to normal, the Lord is forgotten

The strong Warningfound in **Proverbs 1:22-33 …**

Pharaoh's confession is superficial and worthless

He says … ***“This time”*** Not any other time?

The man just didn't get it

He has been sinning every time

His confession is Mouthed with no Meaning

Even Moses knew what was going on

**v. 30 – *“But as for thee and thy servants, I know that ye will not yet fear the LORD God”***

There was no change in the heart of the king

False repentance has roots in a shallow, flippant view of sin

The Destruction of Sin is not taken seriously

Pharaoh's responsibility for his sin was redirected toward his people

***“I and my people are wicked”***

Not all the Egyptians were wicked for some of them believed in the Lord

**v. 20 – *“He that feared the Word of the LORD among the servants of Pharaoh made his servants and his cattle flee into the houses:”***

Pharaoh was trying to ease his guilt by having his people share the blame, yet, he is the one responsible

His decisions have led his people astray

Never underestimate the power of your example, for good or bad

We will also note that true repentance leads someone to confess their own sin, not the sins of others

Have we taken responsibility for our own actions?

Or do we have a flippant attitude toward our sin?

**Proverbs 14:9 –** ***“Fools make a mock at sin”***

If so, realize that it will ruin you

**B. Pharaoh Pleads for Prayer – v. 28**

***“Intreat the LORD (for it is enough) that there be no more … “***

Pharaoh's plea was for Moses to pray to stop the thunder and hail

His promise was, ***“I will let you go!”***

What he is doing is bargaining with God

People do this all the time

*“Lord, get me out of this mess and I'll* …*”* (Fill in the Blank)

They usually don't when they get out of the mess

That is exactly what happens in this case

**THE “RESPONSE”**

**II. THE “PURPOSE” – vs. 29-32**

The purpose for the Judgment and Deliverance was twofold

First …

**A. To Prove that the Earth is the LORD’S – v. 29**

***“And Moses said unto him, As soon as I am gone out of the city, I will spread abroad my hands unto the LORD; and the thunder shall cease, neither shall there be any more hail; that thou mayest know how that the earth is the LORD'S”***

The earth is not under the control of the gods created by the Egyptians nor by any one else

No god created by the mind or hands of man controls the earth and what happens

-- Not the Egyptian water god, Iris

-- Not the Egyptian fire and lightning god, Siris

-- Not the Egyptian god of the atmosphere, Shu

None of these imaginary gods could control God’s creation nor provide protection against the devastating forces of it

The LORD and the LORD alone is sovereign over the earth

The earth is the LORD's: it’s under His control

**Psalm 24:1 – *“The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein”***

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

**Psalm 89:11 – “*The heavens are Thine, the earth also is Thine: as for the world and the fulness thereof, Thou hast founded them”***

Neither can the god worshipped by men today

Humanism

The idea of secular humanism is that mankind itself is a part of an uncreated, eternal cosmos

Its goal is man’s self-remediation without reference to or help from God

Secular humanism grew out of the 18th century Enlightenment and 19th century freethinking movements

Christians might be surprised to learn that they actually share some common ground with secular humanists

Many Christians and proponents of secular humanism share a commitment to reason, free inquiry, the separation of church and state, and the ideal of freedom, and moral education

However, that’s where we part ways

Secular humanists base their morality and ideas about

justice on their intelligence unaided by Scripture

Which Christians rely on for knowledge concerning right and wrong, good and evil

And although secular humanists and Christians develop and use science and technology,

For Christians these tools are to be used in the service of man to the glory of God,

Whereas secular humanists view these things as instruments meant to serve human ends without reference to God

In their inquiries concerning the origins of life, secular humanists do not admit that God created the earth and all living things on it from nothing, including man from its dust

For secular humanists, nature is an eternal, self-perpetuating force

Their god is nature’s forces and themselves

The Second Purpose here was …

**B. To Prove that the LORD is Merciful – vs. 30-32**

Mercy was God’s response

How typical this is of God

God is more anxious to forgive sinners, then sinners are to repent

Let them simply begin to think about turning to Him, and He is right there ready to forgive

**Psalm 86:5 – *“For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee”***

Let every one of us ponder this blessed truth that God is ***“ready to forgive”***

Moses' Divinely ordered actions towards Pharaoh here reflect that truth as well

**1.** Merciful Despite the Hard Heart of Man **– v. 30**

***“But as for thee and thy servants, I know that ye will not yet fear the LORD God”***

Moses promises to pray for the termination of the hail storm, but is not fooled by Pharaoh's confession

He knows that the king is not broken and his heart is not changed

How do you know if someone makes a genuine decision for Christ?

The answer is … watch their life

Yet, God will once again allow the Egyptians a reprieve

**2.** Merciful even in the Mist of Judgment **– vs. 31,32**

These accounts are in harmony with the natural history of Egypt

According to written Egyptian History*,* the barley was reaped in the sixth month after the sowing-time, the wheat in the seventh

The barley was ripe about the end of February or beginning of March; the wheat, at the end of March or beginning of April

The flax is *boiled* or *in flower* in mid-February or early March

The flax and the barley were destroyed by the storm

Barley was used by the poor and to feed the livestock

Flax was used to make linen and was used exclusively by the priest

Even though God allow the Hail to destroy the crops, not all of the crops were destroyed

***“And the flax and the barley was smitten: for the barley was in the ear, and the flax was billed” “But the wheat and the rie were not smitten: for they were not grown up”***

God is Merciful even in the Mist of Judgment

**THE “RESPONSE”**

**THE “PURPOSE”**

**III. THE “DELIVERANCE” – v. 33**

Moses left Pharaoh and went out of the city

He told Pharaoh he would pray for him

He got alone with God, and note what he did

***“he spread out his hands toward the LORD”***

This is a picture of crying out to God

Moses was interceding on behalf of Pharaoh and the people of Egypt

What was the result of his intercession?

God heard his cry

God stopped the judgment

I think of Abraham’s intercession on behalf of Sodom and Gomorrah

**Genesis 18:23-32 …**

**THE “RESPONSE”**

**THE “PURPOSE”**

**THE “DELIVERANCE”**

**IV. THE “DEFERMENT” – vs. 34,35 …**

To Defer something is *to put it off, to postpone to a later date*

Turning Back, Pharaoh again Rejects God

And in doing so he hardens his Heart

We find here the sin of turning back

Pharaoh and his officials did it again

**A. When?** **After the storm was over**

After God had stopped the judgment, they soon ignored the promise they had made

The cost of freeing over two million slaves was just too much of a high a price to pay

The entire economy of Egypt was already devastated by the plagues

And the loss of free labor could be so catastrophic that the economy might never recover

Moreover, the slaves could help rebuild the nation, and their help to rebuild the economy was desperately needed

Once the judgment had passed, Pharaoh and his officials apparently hoped against hope

They deceived themselves into thinking that the judgments were perhaps only natural catastrophes

**B. The Results**

**1.** Pharaoh’s Heart is Hardened

***“And the heart of Pharaoh was hardened,”***

A hard heart is a terrible thing

A hard heart causes a person to turn away, and forsake God

A hard heart dooms a person to the eternal judgment of God

**II Chronicles 15:2 – *“The LORD is with you, while ye be with Him; and if ye seek Him, He will be found of you; but if ye forsake Him, He will forsake you”***

**Ezra 8:22 – *“The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek Him; but His power and His wrath is against all them that forsake Him”***

**2.** Pharaoh again Refuses to Obey

***“neither would he let the children of Israel go;”***

**CONCLUSION**

**Proverbs 23:17 – *“Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the LORD all the day long”***

**THE “RESPONSE”**

**THE “PURPOSE”**

**THE “DELIVERANCE”**

**THE “DEFERMENT”**