THE PLAGUE OF DARKNESS

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**DATE: 11/2018 pm**

**TEXT: Exodus 10:21-29**

**INTRODUCTION**

**Humor**: In a little Hillbilly Hollow, a motorist had to pay a farmer $20 to pull him out of a mud hole. The stranded motorist said, *“Seems to me that you'd be so busy pulling folks out of these lousy mud roads that you would be doing it day and night.” “Nope, I can't pull them out at night,”* said the farmer. *“Cause, night's when we tote the water to muddy the road.”*

God was going to use the Night to Muddy Pharaoh's road

The king refused to see the light, so the Lord says,

*“OK, I'll give you darkness. I'll give you such a darkness that everything will be impossible to do and you will have only time to think”*

When someone wanders from the Lord, God may allow darkness into their life, more trials, to draw them back into the light

He may muddy our road by making it slick, unstable, hard to steer, and unpredictable

All to make us desire the Solid Rock, the Lord Jesus Christ

We’ll see that the darkness brings out the Worst in Pharaoh but the Best in Moses

Let’s stand to read **vs. 21-29** and look at …

**“THE PLAGUE OF DARKNESS”**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

**I. THE “CALL FOR (FROM) DARKNESS” – vs. 21-23**

***“And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may be felt” “And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days:” “They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days: but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings”***

Have you ever had the power go out unexpectedly?

What did you do?

If it was at night, we looked for a flashlight or candles?

That’s what we are about to find happening in Egypt

Notice again that Plague 9 begins as Plagues 3 and 6,

… Without Warning

This stubborn king continues to heap trouble on his people

The guy is an absolute fool

We see here how God again deals with Pharaoh’s stubbornness

He who said, ***“Let there be light”*** is now saying …

*“Let there be darkness in Egypt”*

The Bible tells us that it was a darkness …

… so thick that it could be felt – end of **v. 21**

For three days, the power was out

The light of the heavens was shut off

God was making a final appeal for repentance

They had 3 days to think, 3 days to repent

Before death would come … and they would live in darkness for ever

**A. The Dread**

People today Dread the Darkness (How do I know?)

We leave lights on all night in our homes

It was no different in Egypt

Light, to them, was an emblem of Prosperity

While Darkness represented Calamity

**Proverbs 20:20 – “*Whoso curseth his father or his mother, his lamp shall be put out in obscure darkness”***

**Proverbs 24:20 – “*For there shall be no reward to the evil man; the candle of the wicked shall be put out”***

But according to **I John 1:5** …

***“This then is the message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all”***

**II Corinthians 4:6 *- “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ”***

We have to admit that at one point we were just like the people in Egypt

**Matthew 4:16** says we were, ***“…sitting in darkness…”*** and in, ***“…the region of the shadow of death”***

But, according to **Luke 1:78 – *“Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring (morning light) from on high hath visited us,”***

And we have seen ***“…. a great light…”*** and to us, this ***“…light is sprung up”*** (risen)

This light is none other than God Himself

When the Lord Jesus came, He introduced Himself as, ***“…the light of the world”*** in **John 8:12**

He did this so that, ***“…whosoever believeth on (Him) should not abide in Darkness”* – John 12:46**

And that those that ***“followeth Him shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life”***

But, Unfortunately according to **John 3:19, 20 …**

***“… men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil” “For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved”***

So, it was with Pharaoh

**B. The Judgment**

This darkness was a terrible judgment

 They were totally helpless

Everything was shut down

The Egyptians had to stay at home because they had no light, even in the daytime

But the Bible tells us that the Hebrews, however, did have light

**1.** Look at the Difference in their Dwellings

The Egyptians could not see one another

**v. 23 a – *“They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place”***

They had a darkness which could not be lit up

**v. 23 b – *“but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings”***

Israel had light that could not be blown out

What a picture of today

Without the Lord someone walks in darkness and with the Lord someone walks in the light

Our salvation cannot be taken away or snuffed out

**2.** Their Religious System

This Darkness struck at the heart of their religion

They worshipped the sun

It was the emblem of their false god – Ra

This Darkness indicated that their god was either Powerless or Non-existent

It was also …

**3.** A Picture of their Eternal State

Darkness is a picture of the lost and their eternal destiny

If someone is without Christ, they are walking in spiritual darkness

Those that are lost are in the dark

[**Matthew 6:23**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+6%3A23) **– “*But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!”***

[**Proverbs 4:19**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Pr+4%3A19) **– “*The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble”***

[**II Corinthians 4:4**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Co+4%3A4) **– “*In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them”***

**4.** If someone dies without Christ, they will spend eternity in darkness

**Matthew 8:12 – “*But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth”***

**Matthew 22:13 – “*Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth”***

And those that are saved …

**5**. Are Not to live like we are in spiritual darkness

That kind of living is to end in our lives

**Romans 13:12 – “*The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light”***

**I Thessalonians 5:4 – “*But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief”***

**I John 1:6 – “*If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:”***

**THE “CALL (FOR) FROM DARKNESS”**

**II. THE “DEAL WITH MOSES” – v. 24**

Pharaoh now offers his 4th Compromise

***“And Pharaoh called unto Moses, and said, Go ye, serve the LORD; only let your flocks and your herds be stayed: let your little ones also go with you”***

*Take everybody … but leave your possessions behind*

Besides, the animals would replenish Egypt's demolished food supply

Pharaoh needs to know they are coming back

They were facing famine and death

There is a lesson here for us

Satan wants us to compromise our possessions

The Devil would love for you Not to use what God has blessed you with for God’s glory

Don't tithe; don't support God's work; don't help others

But we need to be reminded that …

**A. Everything Belongs to God**

The Christian need to realize that everything they have has come from God and belongs to God

Therefore, it must be ready and available for His use

Our Homes, (and everything in them) Our cars, even Our children belong to the Lord

We need to be like **Jephthah** in **Judges 11:31**

***“Then it shall be, that whatsoever cometh forth of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the children of Ammon, shall surely be the LORD'S, and I will offer it up…”***

Whatever we have, should be available to the Lord

Everything belongs to God and must be at His disposal

This is the way it should be, but that’s not always the case in the lives of many carnal believers

**Humor:** A wife came into the living room one day having answered the front door and said to her Husband *“There's a man at the front door who wants to see you about a bill you owe,”* *“What does he look like?”* The Husband asked. The wife declared, *“He looks like you'd better pay him.”*

Beloved, give to God what belongs to God or pay the price for robbing God

What a difference we see between the first and last interview Pharaoh held with Moses

In the first interview, Pharaoh yielded nothing

In this one, he yielded everything except Israel's property

What made the difference?

God's Almighty Power revealed in the plagues

**B. The Roles have been Reversed**

The master has been mastered

The master is now the slave without anything, and the slaves are the masters having everything

Jesus put it this way – ***“The first shall be last and the last shall be first”***

The unbelieving rich man was spiritually bankrupt and poor Lazarus was spiritually wealthy in the Lord

God tells us to lay up treasure in Heaven where moth and rust do not corrupt those treasures

**THE “CALL (FOR) FROM DARKNESS”**

**THE “DEAL WITH MOSES”**

**III. THE “DECISIVENESS OF MOSES” – vs. 25, 26**

***“And Moses said, Thou must give us also sacrifices and burnt offerings, that we may sacrifice unto the LORD our God” “Our cattle also shall go with us; there shall not an hoof be left behind; for thereof must we take to serve the LORD our God; and we know not with what we must serve the LORD, until we come thither”***

Moses' reply was, *“No way Jose!”*

Moses would not compromise

He has become a man of conviction, forged by the Lord

Someone once said – *“If you don't stand for something, you will fall for anything”*

Moses was a Decisive man

**A.** **A person who is Decisive refuses to reconsider a decision which they know is right**

They have the right kind of Attitude

Beloved, it’s not our Aptitude, but our Attitude that determines our Altitude in spiritual growth

**B. The Decisive person also makes Present Commitments to avoid Future Failures**

**Quote:** David Livingstone the great Missionary to Africa put it this way, *“I will go anywhere, provided it’s forward”*

Daniel decided to avoid future failure before he was taken to Babylon

**Daniel 1:8 – *“But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself”***

We need to be like Daniel who would rather enter the lion's den than deny the Lord

We need to be like the three Hebrews who were willing to burn in a furnace than worship an idol

**C.** **The Decisive person devotes all their energy to a course that is right**

Ruth followed Naomi because it was the right thing to do

The decisiveness of the turtle enabled it to reach the Ark

The treasures found in the dark deep of the earth are gold, silver, & diamonds, etc.

The stars twinkle like diamonds on a back drop of Darkness

In the Darkness of Egypt, God's man sparkled like a jewel

Like a radiant star, Moses shown brightly in his courage and conviction to the Lord's commands

His mind was made up

*The men who have moved the world have been men whom the world could not move*

**THE “CALL (FOR) FROM DARKNESS”**

**THE “DEAL WITH MOSES”**

**THE “DECISIVENESS OF MOSES”**

**IV. THE “DEATH THREAT” – vs. 27-29**

***“But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let them go” “And Pharaoh said unto him, Get thee from me, take heed to thyself, see my face no more; for in that day thou seest my face thou shalt die” “And Moses said, Thou hast spoken well, I will see thy face again no more”***

Pharaoh back tracks again as before

He will not let them go

He doesn't want to lose his labor force

He doesn't want to see Moses anymore either

If he does, he tells Moses he will die

Moses says - *“Fine with me”*

Anger has ruined Pharaoh's life

For every minute Pharaoh was angry, he lost 60 seconds of happiness

**Quote:** Will Rogers said, *“People who fly into a rage always make a bad landing”*

This king was making a number of bad landings

Pride & Anger distorted his thinking

The Darkness in Egypt was representative of the Darkness in Pharaoh’s Heart

He has been a fool in that he failed to learn from his mistakes,

Pharaoh was supposed to be all wise and all knowing,

But he was far from that

His life speaks volumes to us on what not to do

He’s an example of someone who lacked Wisdom in his life

Such is the problem today

There are very few people who really have any kind of common sense

It never ceases to amaze me at the foolishness or lack of common sense that people display by their decisions

Evidently, manufacturers feel the same way …

As seen by some of the warning found on their products

Here are a few you can laugh at …

-- This was in the manual for a chainsaw - Don’t attempt to stop blade with your hand

-- This was found in a New Car Manual - In order to get out of car, open door, get out, lock doors, and then close door

-- This was Found on the label for a package of bottle rockets - Do not put in mouth

-- This was on the label of a remote control for a TV - Not dishwasher safe

-- This was in the instructions for a Portable Baby Stroller Caution: Remove infant before folding for storage

-- On a container of underarm deodorant - Caution: Do not spray in eyes

-- On a cardboard sun shield that keeps the sun off the dash board - Do not drive with sun shield in place

-- On a toilet bowl cleaning brush - Do not use orally

-- In the manual for a microwave oven - Do not use for drying pets

-- In a car commercial which shows a car in the ocean - Do not drive cars in the ocean

Pretty sad isn’t it?

One of the greatest needs of society today is Wisdom

It is in desperate need because men have chosen to reject the True Wisdom that comes from the Lord

The word Wisdom is a Compound word

The word *wis* which means *wise; understanding truth; knowing*

And the word *dom* which means *judgment*

Wisdom then is not just mere intelligence

Instead, it is the combination of *understanding the truth* with the *good judgment* to apply that *truth*

Wisdom is therefore, not just a bunch of *information*... it is *application of the Truth* (Biblical Truth)

Wisdom must be grounded in one’s commitment to Appling Biblical Truth in a practical manner

It is a Wise person that sees practical application in what he sees or learns

The true test of Wisdom is found in one’s works, not words

You can teach others far more by your manner of life than by your words

It is our walk that talks louder than our talk

**A. Wisdom is a character quality that is developed by *decisions,* not by education**

There is nothing wrong with education as long as that education is based on truth and morals

But so much of education today is based on Anti-God philosophies and is actually a hindrance to Wisdom

The world is oozing with educated men who dribble foolishness

They may have Education, but not Wisdom

Knowledge allows us to go from the simple to the complex;

While Wisdom leads us from the complex to the simple

**Psalm 19:7 – *“The Law (Word) of the LORD is perfect,***

***… converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple”***

**Quote:** Vance Havner once said, *“If you lack knowledge, go to school. If you lack wisdom, get on your knees!”*

Knowledge is not Wisdom

Instead, Wisdom is the proper use of Knowledge

The Wise person lays up Knowledge and Disperses it

**Proverbs 10:14 – *“Wise men lay up (learns) knowledge:”***

**Proverbs 15:7 – *“The lips of the wise disperse knowledge:”***

Wisdom Comes From God and is Centered In God

The Fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom

**B. Because wisdom focuses on Application, it is therefore learned in the field … in the practical everyday circumstances of life**

The classrooms of our schools are designed to build knowledge,

But more than education is needed to develop Wisdom

Classrooms give information which in turn gives knowledge of a subject

When a person comprehends and relates different pieces of information, he develops Understanding

When someone can put 2 and 2 together

Wisdom results when a person finds and makes practical application of the lessons of Knowledge and Understanding

It is hard to find people who we would consider *“wise”* today

**Quote:** Someone once said, “*When the king dies, long live the king. But when the wise man dies, it is not so easy to replace him”*

**Isaiah 19:12** says – ***“Where are the wise?”***

**C. Wisdom is rare today because it requires an attitude of humility**

It requires humility because Wisdom tends to conflict and contradict what we naturally have been taught or believe

Wisdom is discerning the folly that is in my heart, and humbly acknowledging it as folly,

Then overcoming it with wise words, deeds, and attitudes (By Faith in the truth of Scripture)

The person who is maturing in Wisdom and decreasing in foolishness is truly wise

Decreasing in foolishness is the hard part for most people

People usually do not like to change, especially their foolish ways

The very essence and nature of wisdom is to learn and to change

**Proverbs 4:7 – *“Wisdom is the principal thing; …***

***… therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding”***

As a person applies Biblical Truth and Knowledge in their life, they will change

Wisdom lives in the heart of a learner and foolishness abounds in the heart of the stubborn and rebellious

Solomon said – ***“Fools despise instruction”***

Foolishness is insisting that life conforms to their way of thinking and rejects the application of true wisdom

*Some are wise, and some are otherwise*

The otherwise are foolish in their actions and thinking

One very important aspect of wisdom is understanding the importance and worth of someone's time

People with a poor understanding of time are likely to foolishly waste the hours that God has given them

We must realize that our time is limited, and that the time that is lived and spent can never be recovered,

And that every day brings us one day closer to the end of our life or to the Lord's return

Folks with this attitude have a much more fertile heart for the growth and practical application of daily wisdom and the wise use of their time and life

God help us not to waste our life away, but to use our life in living for Jesus Christ!

**CONCLUSION**

Let me close with 15 Traits of a Wise Man

Solomon asked in **Ecclesiates 8:1 …**

***“Who is as the wise man? and who knoweth the interpretation of a thing? a man's wisdom maketh his face to shine, and the boldness of his face shall be changed”***

The Wise Man …

**1.** Is Attentive **– Proverbs 1:5**

***“A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:”***

Many times we make stupid mistakes because we don't take the time to listen to instructions

***“wise counsel”*** is referring to *guidance or direction*

We are going to get direction from someone, it would be best to get it from someone Wise

Unfortunately, many people may seek wise counsel, but fail to implement it

They have accomplished nothing by doing so

They are not Attentive

**Proverbs 12:15 – *“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise”***

The fool is the master of his own fate

He will not learn from his mistakes

**2.** Accepts Rebuke **– Proverbs 9:8, 9**

***“Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee” “Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning”***

Do you take correction from those who are in authority over you such as parents, a boss, teacher, coach or pastor?

If you constantly buck at reproof and directions, it is a good indication you are a scorner

The word ***“scorner”*** means *to mouth at, talk arrogantly, to boast, scoff, mock or be inflated or have a big head*

Does this describe you?

**3.** Acknowledges God's Wisdom – **Proverbs 2:6**

***“For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of His mouth cometh knowledge and understanding”***

Most people struggle to acknowledge God today,

Yet alone, acknowledge or accept His Wisdom

In their foolishness, they think they have all the answers and know more than God, only to end up with egg on their face

Do you seek the Wisdom of Scripture?

**4.** Retreats from Evil

**5.** Appeases the Wrath of Others

**6.** Refrains from Speaking His Mind at the Wrong Time

**7.** Restrains from Arguing with the Foolish

**8.** Respects God's Word

**9.** Has Righteous Actions

**10.** Is Anchored in the Lord

**11.** Is Reliable to the Lord

**12.** Gets his Wisdom From the Lord

**13.** Is a Companion to other Wise Man

**14.** Attempts to Reach Others For Jesus Christ

**15.** Assists & Reassures His Family