The Service Church
Worship Services

Exodus: Chapter 5

Chapter 5

- V. 1 – And afterward…
  - (SC: Why does it begin with "And afterward"? Because it's saying that context matters. "Afterward" is HUGE. Know your context in all situations, all settings.
  - So let's answer the question. After *what*? Was it in reference to when God spoke to Moses or when Moses and Aaron spoke to the people and performed signs? The answer is both.)
  - …"Moses and Aaron came and said to Pharaoh, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel says: 'Let My people go so that they may celebrate a feast to Me (SC: Not "with" me, but "to" me) in the wilderness.'"
  - SC: First of all, how did he get the platform to speak to Pharaoh. And how did he get the courage?
- V. 2 – But Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, and besides, I will not let Israel go."
- V. 3 – Then they said, "The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Please, let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness so that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God, otherwise He will strike us with pestilence and the sword."
  - SC: So what is pestilence and why the sword? That is a very *violent* concept. Does that mean there was violence in societies back then versus what we know today, potentially? So what is pestilence? Plagues. What is the sword? Wars.
- V. 4 – But the king of Egypt said to them, "Moses and Aaron, why do you draw the people way from their work? Get back to work!"
- V. 5 – Again Pharaoh said, "Look, the people of the land are now many, and you would have them cease from their labors!"
  - SC: What's Pharaoh thinking about? Economics.
- V. 6 – So the same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters over the people and their foremen, saying,
- V. 7 – "You are no longer to give the people straw to make bricks as previously; have them go and gather straw for themselves.
  - SC: In other words, Moses has come to Pharaoh with this request. Pharaoh's response, "Let's make it *harder* for them, not *easier*". Why'd he do that? Fear. So the point is, when you go to a major authority out of sincerity with a request, that big power or authority will often factor in what they have to lose by your request. *They* know that half their power over the commoners is in the commoners' heads. So that makes them fearful and insecure as far as their power. So you always want to be careful what you say to a major authority. Because they'll interpret it within *their* context and position in society.
- V. 8 – But you shall impose on them the quota of bricks which they were making before; you are not to reduce any of it. Because they are lazy, for that reason they cry out, 'Let us go and sacrifice to our God.'
  - SC: So Pharaoh's conclusion to this request is, "They're lazy and so they cry out to their Lord for rescue. So what should we do? We tighten the screws."
- V. 9 – Let the labor be heavier on the men, and have them work at it so that they will pay no attention to false words.

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- SC: There's the key. See how Pharaoh's mind is 180 degrees from Moses and Aaron's mind? Moses and Aaron don't even waste time trying to change Pharaoh's mind. They're smart enough to realize that *his* mindset is not *their* mindset.
- V. 10 – So the taskmasters of the people and their foremen went out and spoke to the people, saying, "This is what Pharaoh says: 'I am not going to give you any straw.
- V. 11 – You go, get straw for yourselves wherever you can find it; but none of your labor will be reduced.'"
- V. 12 – So the people scattered through all (SC: Keyword, "all") the land of Egypt to gather stubble for straw.
- V. 13 – And the taskmasters pressed them, saying, "Complete your work quota, your daily amount, just as when you had straw."
    - SC: In other words, "We're going to take away from you and you STILL have to do what we require as far as production."
- V. 14 – Moreover, the foremen of the sons of Israel (SC: This is like WWII in the Jewish prison camps, they had fellow Jews being foremen over all the Jewish prisoners.), whom Pharaoh's taskmasters had set over them, were beaten and asked, "Why have you not completed your required task of making bricks either yesterday or today, as before?"
- V. 15 – Then the foremen of the sons of Israel came and cried out to Pharaoh, saying, "Why do you deal this way with your servants?
    - SC: HUGE question there. The answer is – because they don't understand. They're not taking the time to think about it from Pharaoh's point of view. They're only conducting their lives from their *own* point of view. That's why people [often] don't make connections in relationships.
- V. 16 – "There is no straw given to your servants, yet they keep saying to us, 'Make bricks!' And behold, your servants are being beaten; but it is the fault of your own people."
- V. 17 – But he said, "You are lazy, very lazy; for that reason you say, 'Let us go and sacrifice to the LORD.'
- V. 18 – "So go now and work; for you will be given no straw, but you must deliver the quota of bricks."
- V. 19 – The foremen of the sons of Israel saw that they were in trouble, since they were told, "You must not reduce your daily amount of bricks."
- V. 20 – When they left Pharaoh's presence, they met Moses and Aaron as they were waiting for them.
- V. 21 – And they (the foremen of the sons of Israel) said to them (Moses and Aaron), "May the LORD look upon you and judge you, because you have made us repulsive in Pharaoh's sight and in the sight of his servants, to put a sword in their hand to kill us!"
- V. 22 – Then Moses returned to the LORD and said, "Lord, why have You brought harm to this people? Why did You ever send me?
- V. 23 – "Ever since I came to Pharaoh to speak in Your name, he has done harm to this people, and You have not rescued Your people at all."

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