

I. Introduction:

Moses reluctantly obeys God and goes to Pharaoh with Aaron. Moses is equipped by God with a mission and some signs that he can perform in order to convince others of his leaders and Pharaoh that he is really sent from God. In today's study we will see how the initial encounter with Pharaoh turns out. The story is being built and the plan is in place, but things do not resolve nicely. There are difficulties that Moses and Aaron encounter along the way.

II. Study: Exodus 5:1-23

5 Afterward Moses and Aaron went and said to Pharaoh, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Let my people go, that they may hold a feast to me in the wilderness.'" 2 But Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, and moreover, I will not let Israel go." 3 Then they said, "The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Please let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God, lest he fall upon us with pestilence or with the sword." 4 But the king of Egypt said to them, "Moses and Aaron, why do you take the people away from their work? Get back to your burdens." 5 And Pharaoh said, "Behold, the people of the land are now many, and you make them rest from their burdens!" 6 The same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters of the people and their foremen, 7 "You shall no longer give the people straw to make bricks, as in the past; let them go and gather straw for themselves. 8 But the number of bricks that they made in the past you shall impose on them, you shall by no means reduce it, for they are idle. Therefore they cry, 'Let us go and offer sacrifice to our God.' 9 Let heavier work be laid on the men that they may labor at it and pay no regard to lying words."

10 So the taskmasters and the foremen of the people went out and said to the people, "Thus says Pharaoh, 'I will not give you straw. 11 Go and get your straw yourselves wherever you can find it, but your work will not be reduced in the least.'" 12 So the people were scattered

throughout all the land of Egypt to gather stubble for straw. 13 The taskmasters were urgent, saying, "Complete your work, your daily task each day, as when there was straw." 14 And the foremen of the people of Israel, whom Pharaoh's taskmasters had set over them, were beaten and were asked, "Why have you not done all your task of making bricks today and yesterday, as in the past?"

15 Then the foremen of the people of Israel came and cried to Pharaoh, "Why do you treat your servants like this? 16 No straw is given to your servants, yet they say to us, 'Make bricks!' And behold, your servants are beaten; but the fault is in your own people." 17 But he said, "You are idle, you are idle; that is why you say, 'Let us go and sacrifice to the LORD.'" 18 Go now and work. No straw will be given you, but you must still deliver the same number of bricks." 19 The foremen of the people of Israel saw that they were in trouble when they said, "You shall by no means reduce your number of bricks, your daily task each day." 20 They met Moses and Aaron, who were waiting for them, as they came out from Pharaoh; 21 and they said to them, "The LORD look on you and judge, because you have made us stink in the sight of Pharaoh and his servants, and have put a sword in their hand to kill us."

22 Then Moses turned to the LORD and said, "O Lord, why have you done evil to this people? Why did you ever send me? 23 For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has done evil to this people, and you have not delivered your people at all."

III. Observation:

1. Why does Pharaoh ask the question "Who is the LORD?" (2) What is Pharaoh thinking and feeling at this point?
2. Why did Pharaoh conclude that the people were lazy? (8)
3. What did the Israelite overseers do in order to remedy their situation? (15) Why did they blame Moses and Aaron?
4. What was Moses' reaction to the people turning on him? How do you think he felt? What did he say?
5. What do you think is God's plan for this situation? Do you think Moses has a legitimate gripe with God?

IV. Application:

God does not do things the way that we expect. God has other plans, some of which we will eventually understand, but many of which we will never understand. The difficulty is being able to trust in God through those times. But the good news is that we're able to go to God himself and have honest conversations with him. All throughout Exodus Moses is able to have honest and very straightforward conversations with God about his concerns as the representative of his people. God does not take Moses' concerns lightly, though he does not always answer Moses' questions. He still asks Moses to trust him at the end of the day.

6. Have you ever felt like God did not come through in your life? How did you feel about it and how did you deal with it?



LSF Bible Study #4: Story of the Exodus (SotE)
Exodus:5:1 Promises and Pain