



EXPLORE THE BIBLE®

Exodus and Leviticus Sermon Series

Supports Session 2: Freedom Promised

Sermon Title: “When Plans Don’t Go as Planned” (Exodus 5:1-21)

Connection to Session 2

At this point in Exodus, Moses had returned to Egypt and performed signs before the people. Exodus 4:30-31 says, “Aaron repeated everything the LORD had said to Moses and performed the signs before the people. The people believed, and when they heard that the LORD had paid attention to them and that he had seen their misery, they knelt low and worshiped.” However, now Moses and Aaron needed to ask Pharaoh to release the Hebrews from slavery.

Introduction/Opening

Do you ever wonder what Moses and Aaron were thinking as they entered Pharaoh’s throne room? Maybe they were thinking, “I do not belong here.” Have you ever been to a place where you felt as if you did not belong? Moses and Aaron stood before Pharaoh, likely feeling out of place. However, they were standing exactly where God called them to be.

Outline

I. **When your plans don’t go as planned (Ex. 5:1-14)**

Moses and Aaron asked for the Hebrew people to be released from slavery. However, what they had hoped for was not going to happen in the way they planned.

- a. The Lord spoke.
 - i. Moses and Aaron told Pharaoh that the Lord asked for His people to be released so they might worship Him in the wilderness (v. 1).
 - ii. The Hebrew people had been slaving away for Pharaoh, but now it was time for them to be set free.
- b. Who is the Lord?
 - i. Pharaoh said he did not know the Lord and would not obey Him. Therefore, Pharaoh would not let the people go.
 - i. Knowing the Lord is a major theme of the book of Exodus. Throughout the plagues, God stated that He was acting so that “you will know that I am the LORD” (Ex. 10:2).
 - ii. Pharaoh did not grant their request because he did not know the Lord. However, he would come to know the Lord’s mighty power as he and Egypt were punished for disobedience.
- c. Application: Do you know the Lord? Moses and Aaron were standing in front of the most powerful man in the world. Their boldness serves as an encouragement for us today as we call people to know the Lord.

- d. Pharaoh spoke.
 - i. Pharaoh told them to get back to work (vv. 4-5).
 - ii. Notice the contrast between what the Lord says (v. 1) and what Pharaoh says (v. 4). We will see this battle between Pharaoh and God continue over the next few chapters.

II. **How not to react when your plans don't go as planned (Ex. 5:15-21)**

Pharaoh refused to comply with Moses and Aaron's demand. Instead of releasing the Hebrews, Pharaoh made their lives harder. They would now have to make bricks without straw (Ex. 5:6-8). The people grumbled against Moses and Aaron for this change.

- a. The oppression of the people
 - i. The people needed to make the same number of bricks but by doing more work. If they did not meet their quota they were beaten.
 - ii. Instead of being freed, the people were further oppressed.
 - iii. Pharaoh called the people "slackers" (v. 17).
- b. The response of the people
 - i. The people went to Moses and Aaron and told them "May the LORD take note of you and judge . . . because you have made us reek to Pharaoh and his official—putting a sword in their hand to kill us" (v. 21).
 - ii. The people's reaction revealed their heart—they did not know the Lord. God said He would deliver, but the deliverance was delayed. They began to doubt God's plan.
 - iii. Application: When your plans don't go as planned, do not doubt the Lord. He is always at work; we can trust Him and His promises.

Conclusion

The Hebrews could not get past their own circumstances to see the mighty hand of God at work in their lives. They could not see past their difficulties to know that the Lord loved them. Believer, take hope. Just because you can't understand or see what God is doing, do not despair. God is at work in your life. Trust Him and continue to serve Him as a courageous witness.

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