



Obstinate Pharaoh Rejects God and Oppresses the Jews

Exodus 5

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Obstinate Pharaoh Refuses to Listen

- **Exodus 5:1, 2**

And afterward Moses and Aaron came and said to Pharaoh, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'Let My people go that they may celebrate a feast to Me in the wilderness.'" 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."



Previous Assurance to Moses

- **Exodus 3:18**

And they will pay heed to what you say; and you with the elders of Israel will come to the king of Egypt, and you will say to him, "The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. So now, please, let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God."

 Pharaoh's Obstinacy Predicted But Deliverance is Promised

- **Exodus 3:19, 20**

"But I know that the king of Egypt will not permit you to go, except under compulsion. So I will stretch out My hand, and strike Egypt with all My miracles which I shall do in the midst of it; and after that he will let you go."

 They Now Plead Rather than Command

- **Exodus 5:3**

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."

 "Go Back to Work!"

- **Exodus 5:4, 5**

But the king of Egypt said to them, "Moses and Aaron, why do you draw the people away from their work? Get back to your labors!" Again Pharaoh said, "Look, the people of the land are now many, and you would have them cease from their labors!"



Their Task Gets Harder

- **Exodus 5:6, 7**

So the same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters over the people and their foremen, saying, "You are no longer to give the people straw to make brick as previously; let them go and gather straw for themselves."



Pharaoh Calls them Lazy and Deceived

- **Exodus 5:8, 9**

But the quota of bricks which they were making previously, you shall impose on them; you are not to reduce any of it. Because they are lazy, therefore they cry out, "Let us go and sacrifice to our God." Let the labor be heavier on the men, and let them work at it that they may pay no attention to false words.



Pharaoh Increases Their Oppression

- **Exodus 5:10, 11**

So the taskmasters of the people and their foremen went out and spoke to the people, saying, "Thus says Pharaoh, 'I am not going to give you any straw. You go and get straw for yourselves wherever you can find it; but none of your labor will be reduced.'"

 They Must Find “Stubble” Rather Than Provided “Chopped Straw”

■ **Exodus 5:12, 13**

So the people scattered through all the land of Egypt to gather stubble for straw. And the taskmasters pressed them, saying, “Complete your work quota, your daily amount, just as when you had straw.”

 Beaten For Failure to do The Impossible!

■ **Exodus 5:14**

Moreover, the foremen of the sons of Israel, whom Pharaoh's taskmasters had set over them, were beaten and were asked, “Why have you not completed your required amount either yesterday or today in making brick as previously?”

 A Labor Protest

■ **Exodus 5:15, 16**

Then the foremen of the sons of Israel came and cried out to Pharaoh, saying, “Why do you deal this way with your servants? 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.”



The Protesters Are Called “Lazy”

■ **Exodus 5:17, 18**

But he said, “You are lazy, very lazy; therefore you say, ‘Let us go and sacrifice to the Lord.’ So go now and work; for you shall be given no straw, yet you must deliver the quota of bricks.”



Moses and Aaron Await a Report

■ **Exodus 5:19, 20**

And the foremen of the sons of Israel saw that they were in trouble because they were told, “You must not reduce your daily amount of bricks.” When they left Pharaoh's presence, they met Moses and Aaron as they were waiting for them.



The Foremen Blame Moses and Aaron

■ **Exodus 5:21**

And they said to them, “May the Lord look upon you and judge you, for you have made us odious in Pharaoh's sight and in the sight of his servants, to put a sword in their hand to kill us.”

 **Moses Blames God**

■ **Exodus 5:22, 23**

Then Moses returned to the Lord and said, "O Lord, why have You brought harm to this people? Why did You ever send me? Ever since I came to Pharaoh to speak in Your name, he has done harm to this people, and You have not delivered Your people at all."

 **A Preview: God's Answer**

■ **Exodus 6:1, 2**

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh; for under compulsion he shall let them go, and under compulsion he shall drive them out of his land." God spoke further to Moses and said to him, "I am the Lord"

 **Applications**

- Do not allow your confidence in God to be dashed on the rocks of human obstinance.
- Do not waste your time affixing blame when things go badly.
- If we are in an impossible situation we cannot change, we must trust God to do everything He has promised.

 **Human Obstinance
Cannot Stop the Gospel**

■ **Acts 5:28, 29**

“We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and behold, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.” But Peter and the apostles answered and said, “We must obey God rather than men.”

 **Confidence in God Who
Raises the Dead**

■ **Acts 5:30, 31**

“The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross. He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.”

 **What They Prayed Earlier, God
Answered**

■ **Acts 4:29**

“And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Thy bond-servants may speak Thy word with all confidence,”

 **Affixing Blame is a Waste of Time**

- **Genesis 3:12, 13**

And the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

 **An Ungrateful Man Blames Jesus**

- **John 5:10**

So the Jews were saying to the man who was cured, "It is the Sabbath, and it is not permissible for you to carry your pallet." But he answered them, "He who made me well was the one who said to me, 'Pick up your pallet and walk.'"

 **An Ungrateful Man Blames Jesus**

- **John 5:12 - 14**

They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Pick up your pallet and walk'?" But the man who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had slipped away while there was a crowd in that place. Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "Behold, you have become well; do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse happens to you."

 Trust God When It Seems Impossible

■ **Hebrews 11:17 - 19**

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son; it was he to whom it was said, "In Isaac your descendants shall be called." He considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type.

 God's Answer is "I AM"; That is What We Must Believe

■ **Hebrews 11:6**

And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.


