

**Men's Sunday Night**  
**A Study in the Book of Exodus**  
**Lesson 3 - Exodus 5-6:27**  
**Journey to Freedom**  
**The Word and Name of the Lord**

Seven times in these chapters, God says to Pharaoh, "Let my people go!" This command reveals that Israel was in bondage, but God wanted them to be free that they might serve Him. This is the condition of every lost sinner: enslavement to the world, the flesh and the devil.

*"Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice?"* was Pharaoh's response to God's command. The world has no respect for God's Word; it is "vain words" to them. Moses and Aaron presented God's command to Pharaoh, and the result was more bondage for Israel! The sinner will either yield to God's Word, or resist it and become hardened. In one sense, God hardened Pharaoh's heart by presenting His claims, but Pharaoh himself hardened his own heart by resisting God's claims. The same sun that melts the ice also hardens the clay.

Unfortunately, the people of Israel looked to Pharaoh for help rather than to the Lord who had promised to deliver them. No wonder the Jews were unable to agree with Moses and accused him instead of encouraging him. Believers who are out of fellowship with God bring grief to their leaders instead of help. Moses certainly was discouraged, but he did what is always best—he took his problem to the Lord. God encouraged Moses in chapter 6 by reminding him of His name, His covenant, His personal concern, and His faithful promises. God's *"I Am"* and *"I Will"* are enough to overcome the enemy! God's purpose in allowing Pharaoh to oppress Israel was that His own power and glory might be known to the world.

**Read Exodus 5:1-23 and Answer the Following Questions:**

1. The Lord's message is: "*Let My people go.*" What challenge to Pharaoh's authority does this imply?
2. What happened to Moses and Aaron when they obeyed the Lord and went to Pharaoh?
3. What happened to the Israelites as a result of this obedience of Moses and Aaron? (See 5:10-19)
4. What happened to Moses and Aaron when the Israelites realized life was going to be very hard? What did Moses and Aaron do next? (See 5:20-23)
5. Have you ever taken a step of faith and had this type of thing happen to you? What did you do about it? What was the final outcome?

## Read Exodus 6:1-27 and Answer the Following Questions

6. God repeats “*I am the Lord*” 4 times in 6:2-8. Why do you think He does this?

7. God reminds Moses that He knows He made a covenant with the Israelites and that He hadn’t forgotten that covenant. Do you think Moses was encouraged by this? If so, why?

8. Notice these words in 6:6-8 (*I will bring, I will rescue, I will redeem, I will be your God, I will give*). What do these phrases tell you about the Lord’s heart for His people?

9. What does God promise to do again? Has He added anything to this promise that they had never heard before? (See 6:6-8)

10. God tells Moses again to go to Pharaoh and ask to be let go. How does Moses respond? How does God respond to Moses after that? (See 6:10-13)

11. This genealogy proves that Moses and Aaron are direct descendants of Levi. It proves that Moses and Aaron are actually the same two men that God spoke to in Midian. Why do you think God cares so much about detail? ( See 6:14-27)

## **Spiritual Authority**

### **Exodus 6:13**

Authority can be used in ways that bring liberty to people, not just limitation. Sometimes people think of authority as nothing more than telling others what they can and can't do. But in God's instructions to Moses we are reminded that authority can bring freedom to others when it is applied wisely and under the Lord's direction.

For example, a judge can use authority to release an innocent person from jail. A high school principal can use authority to obtain resources so teachers are able to teach effectively. A manager can use authority to reward a worker's performance and encourage creativity and excellence. So, in its best use, authority can be affirming and supportive rather than controlling and correctional. How are you inclined to use authority?

### **2 Corinthians 13:10**

If you exercise leadership among other believers, you will want to carefully study Paul's comment about his authority. Like many of us, Paul liked to be in charge, and he felt frustrated when people failed to follow his lead, as the Corinthians had. As an Apostle, he had spiritual authority over them, which at times led him to deal severely with them.

But it's important to notice how Paul exercised his authority, especially as he grew older in the faith. He didn't lord it over others or try to use his authority to personal advantage. Nor did he abuse his power by using it to work out his own anger. Instead, he recognized that spiritual authority is given "*for edification and not for destruction*" (2 Cor. 10:8), for building others up, not tearing them down.

Is that how you see your position and authority? Do you exercise leadership in order to accomplish the best interests of those that follow you? As they carry out your directions, are those around you built up in Christ, or torn down?