

Men's Sunday Night
A Study in the Book of Exodus
Lesson 5 - Exodus 11
Journey to Freedom
Judgments on Egypt
Part Two

The key to these next few chapters is the lamb. The Passover marks the birth of the nation of Israel and its deliverance from bondage. This great event also pictures Christ and His work on the cross.

“One plague more!” God’s patience had run out and His final judgment (death to the firstborn) was about to fall. Note that death was to come to all, unless they were protected by the blood of the lamb. “*All have sinned*” (Rom. 3:23) and “*the wages of sin is death*” (Rom. 6:23). God specifies that the “firstborn” will die, and this speaks of God’s rejection of our first birth. All people are “firstborn” who have not been “twice-born.” “*That which is born of the flesh is flesh...you must be born again*” (John 3:6–7). People cannot save themselves from the penalty of death; they need Christ, the Lamb of God.

For years, the Jews had slaved for the Egyptians without pay, so now God permits them to ask for their just wages. From a human point of view, there was no difference between the firstborn of Egypt and the firstborn of Israel. The difference was in the application of the blood. All are sinners, but those who have trusted Christ are “under the blood” and saved. This is the most important difference in the world!

8. What should the Egyptian people have learned from the plague judgments? How does this demonstrate God's mercy?

9. Why did Pharaoh harden his heart and refuse to listen to Moses?

Tightening the Screws Carefully **Exodus 11:1**

Even with someone as stubborn as Pharaoh, God showed incredible patience. God could have brought the final plague, the death of the firstborn immediately after Pharaoh's first refusal to free the Hebrews. Instead, God began a systematic plan of attrition, as if to wear down the ruler's resistance. Yet Pharaoh remained steadfast. He was not easily influenced to change his mind. As Moses and Aaron negotiated with him, he became increasingly difficult to deal with.

Finally, after the last plague, an agreement was reached. What a long, intense, and hard process it took to get to that point. Even then, Pharaoh's true colors resurfaced as he and his armies pursued the fleeing Hebrews.

Sooner or later, most of us will confront someone who seems as stubborn as the king of Egypt. It may be a coworker, a boss, the government, or even one of our own children. When the moment comes for you, will you handle it with patience? God's treatment of Pharaoh shows the value of "tightening the screws" slowly rather than suddenly.

So, as you deal with resistance, can you devise a carefully graduated sequence of consequences that might help the other person understand what is happening and perhaps have a change of heart? Discipline and correction need to help the recipient discover the problem and provide a chance to make changes. There's no point in jumping immediately to the harshest outcomes.