

Busy Under Satan's Yoke
Exodus 5:1-18
Berean Baptist Church
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INTRODUCTION

Moses will speak before Pharaoh and demand the release of Israel so that they may serve God. But evil never releases its slaves easily; there will be a fight. Satan still enslaves today.

Christ is our victory, and He gives us a part in the fight. We can be wisely prepared by studying our enemies tactics. He we see our Enemy use three tactics: arrogance, fear, and busyness.

Escape Satan's enslavement by humbling yourself before God and allowing neither fear nor busyness comes between you and the Lord.

Exodus 5:1-4 The Enemy Uses Arrogance to Enslave

This is a story about the redemption of the people of God from bondage, but we must start by seeing that Pharaoh was also a slave. The rulers of Egypt were slaves to their own sinful pride. Their arrogance drove them, against all reason and goodness, to their own destruction in the hands of God.

Vs 1 & 3 God knows that any request will be refused, but He gives a small, very reasonable request. If Pharaoh had assented, he would have saved Egypt and himself.

“feast to Me in the wilderness” - This was a very common practice. People generally believed that each nation had its own god and that god would regularly call the nation together to observe a holiday.

Pharaoh's response shows that he does not regard the god of the Hebrews as worth obeying.

Vs 2 Pharaoh learns God's personal name just like Moses did, but Pharaoh's response is as arrogant as Moses' was humble.

Vs 3-4 Pharaoh's sneering question “who is the LORD” is answered in the best way. He is the God of the Hebrews, so He has a claim on the worship and service of His people. Now Pharaoh must weigh to competing claims: Pharaoh's claim on the Hebrews slavery, or their God's claim on their worship?

“Get back to your labor!” - The King of Egypt has made his decision and doomed his country. By this pronouncement, Pharaoh declares that making bricks from the mud of Egypt is more important than the holy worship of God.

“The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts. (Psalm 10:4).” But God, “scorneth the scorners: but he giveth grace unto the lowly. (Proverbs 3:34)”

See how sin uses pride to drive people away from God! Humble yourself under God or you will be a slave to sin!

Exodus 5:5-18 The Enemy Uses Business and Fear to Enslave

The Enemy knows that he may his grip on his slaves, so we will use a combination of fear and busyness to try to keep them in line. Israel will be forced into more labor (Vs 7), called “lazy” (Vs 8), scattered abroad (Vs 12), forced to hurry (Vs 13), and punished when they do not work fast enough (Vs

14).

Vs 5-9 Pharaoh decides that the real problem is that the Hebrews don't have enough to keep them busy. They are idle, they don't need more false words, they need more work.

Vs 10-11 These mud bricks were made by mixing chopped hay with river mud and allowing the mixture to dry in the sun. Because the Hebrews are idle, they will have to find their own hay for the mixture instead of having it delivered to them. There is a strong emphasis on “you” in Vs 11- you, get straw yourself!

Vs 12-14 The Enemy uses busyness to suppress the call of God and distract people from the hope of God. This is one of Satan's favorite tactics; he has been telling the same callous lie "arbeite machte frei" for thousands of years.

But today we believe it. Satan does not have to set taskmasters over us. Our busy slavery has become a badge of honor. We make our selves busy chasing wealth, things, and status. We fill our lives with trivial media of no eternal value, and we find that we have no time for the things that matter.

And what's worse, because our lives are sickly busy, we do very little well. Even good works are made bad because we cannot dedicate the time that it takes to do them well.

So practically, how can we be delivered from busyness? The answer comes down to pride and priorities.

Do not allow your pride to put you under the burden of busyness. It does not matter that everyone else has a nicer car, so you don't to work on Sundays you can buy a new one. Your social media presence is really not that important, you can spend your five minutes waiting in line praying or just meditating on the goodness of God.

Intentionally prioritize the things of God in your life. If you spend 15 minutes a day on Facebook, you are not too busy to read the Bible every day. If you spend an hour-and-a-half per week playing or watching sports, you are not too busy to go to church.

Vs 15-18 They “cried out to Pharaoh” but Pharaoh's response is to pile cruelty and pain on them.

But God said... “I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; (3:7)”

Your idles cannot hear your cry, and Satan does not care. But God sees, hears, and knows! So seek God first – prioritize your walk with him and be willing to say "no" to thing that interferes.

CONCLUSION

Our enemy will use your own pride and misplaced priorities to enslaving yourself to pointless busyness. He will use fear to bully you away from God. And he will use your own arrogance to case you to run from God. But in every assault, the answer is the same: humble yourself and put God first!

Escape Satan's enslavement by humbling yourself before God and allowing neither fear nor busyness comes between you and the Lord.