

# Sermon Notes – October 20, 2024

## Review

- ⇒ Exodus is a continuation of the story that began in Genesis. Genesis lays the foundation for the people and the storyline that takes place in Exodus.
- ⇒ Our theme is “No Longer Slaves,” a theme that spans the entire Bible. The Bible is an unfolding story of redemption, atonement, deliverance, and glory. God Himself is the main hero and the ultimate reward.
- ⇒ Last week, we saw God call his messenger of redemption to go to Egypt. While Moses was hesitant and pointed to his own deficiencies, God graciously called Moses to a relationship of trust, demonstrating that he would be glorified and show his power through the weakness of his messenger.

## Today’s Text: Exodus 4:18-31

In today’s text, we see Moses respond with obedience and begin his journey to Egypt, following the plan of God, who is in complete control of all that is to come. Yet, even in his obedience to God’s call, there is still sin in the life of Moses that God confronts so that he can be a true messenger of the promise of God.

## God’s Person (18-20)

- ⇒ With his questions (and excuses) answered by God, Moses responded with obedience to God’s call and prepared his family for the journey to Egypt.
- ⇒ Moses’ identity and purpose were now in God as he followed God’s path with “the staff of God.” In Biblical times your staff was your identity document, your weapon and a status symbol. The staff started as Moses’ staff (4:1) but now it was God’s and a symbol of his \_\_\_\_\_.

## God’s Plan (21-23)

- ⇒ God would harden Pharaoh’s heart, despite all the miracles that Moses would perform before Pharaoh. This was God’s doing so that God would receive the glory due his name.
- ⇒ Israel had the position of \_\_\_\_\_ before God as “firstborn son.” Pharaoh’s refusal to let Israel depart would cost him his

own firstborn son. This points forward to the Passover and God's unique son who would shed his blood for sin.

- ⇒ In Egypt, Pharaoh was considered a god, but his supposedly pure heart would be weighed by God and found \_\_\_\_\_ (Stuart).
- ⇒ There is no part of our future nor the future of the world which is outside of the ultimate control of the great "I AM."

### God's Promise (24-26)

- ⇒ What's the big deal about circumcision? In Genesis 17, we see that this is the sign of the everlasting \_\_\_\_\_ – God's promise to Abraham – to make his descendants fruitful and give them the land. All Israelites who were not circumcised were to be cut off from the people (Gen. 17:14).
- ⇒ Moses, the \_\_\_\_\_ of God to Israel and Egypt, needed to be in line with God's promise and purpose for his people, yet his own son was not circumcised.
- ⇒ The Mercy of God is abundant in this text. While a death penalty hung over Moses (or perhaps his son), God also made clear his requirement and gave time to complete the task.
- ⇒ The most important point of this text is that God takes his promises seriously – he always keeps his promise! His actions to save Israel were based on his promise to Abraham.
- ⇒ We believers are ambassadors of God (2 Cor 5) and carry the message of his promise of salvation to all. Do our lives reflect the promise we carry?

### God' Provision (27-31)

- ⇒ As promised, the LORD brings Aaron to Moses. Though God was able to deliver the Israelites through Moses alone, Aaron was God's \_\_\_\_\_ provision, giving Moses more than he needed to do what God called him to do.
- ⇒ Moses and Aaron were God's Provision to the children of Israel. Those who "cried out for help" had been heard by their loving God.
- ⇒ Appropriately, Israel responded in worship, a response which should also be ours as we come before the God who provided for our salvation and whose mercies are "new every morning."

### Responding to God's Love and Mercy

- ⇒ Pray through the text this week. Are you God's person? Are you following God's plan and relying on his promises in scripture? Will you worship him for his provision of life and salvation?
- ⇒ Is there a neglected area of obedience in your life that God is confronting you with this morning? How will you respond?

# Community Group Notes

## Getting Started

What role do nicknames play in your extended family? Do most family members have a nickname of some sort? Is there a story behind each of them? Or are some of them a bit of a mystery? Do most of the nicknames “fit” or seem appropriate? Or are some of them rather puzzling, if not confusing?

## Looking Back and Taking it Home (Review)

1. Read or scan Exodus 4. Choose one verse from this chapter that you would like to commit to memory. Share your choice with the group and explain why you chose that verse. Possible criteria: (1) It summarizes the chapter, (2) It addresses an important biblical issue, (3) It is convicting, or (4) It is comforting.

Exodus 4: \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Think back on Exodus 4:18-31, what stood out to you from Sunday’s sermon?

3. As the curtain opens on this new scene in Exodus 4:18, what do you think is going through Moses’ mind regarding his encounter with God? Is he totally on board with God’s assignment? Is he moving ahead but still rather skeptical? Or is he running as fast as he can in the opposite direction?

4. Last week we broke Exodus 4:18-31 into 7 mini-scenes. Consider the possibility that this literary arrangement might be a multi-layered sandwich (like the sandwiches we observed in the Gospel of Mark). Could the key to this entire section be the center of the sandwich? With that in mind, summarize this entire section in 15 words or less! (Remember that summarizing is intended to force us to focus on what’s most important and leave out what’s less important.)

5. In, “*The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*” (C.S. Lewis), Mr. Beaver tells Susan that Aslan (the ruler of Narnia, intended to represent Jesus) is a great lion. Susan says to Mr. Beaver, “I feel rather nervous about meeting a lion...is Aslan safe?” Mr. Beaver replies, “Safe? Who said anything about safe? ‘Course he isn’t safe. But he’s good.” Based on Exodus 4:18-31, how is God good? How is He not safe?

## Preparing for Next Week’s Sermon

6. Read Exodus 5:1 – 6:30 as a group, one section at a time and use your Scripture Journal to do the following:

⇒ Mark the following words or phrases in some distinctive way.

**know that I am the LORD**

**I** (as it refers to God)

**let ... go**

⇒ Draw a line between the sections as indicated below. In the margin, note who is involved in each section and a few words of summary about what is happening.

5:1-5

5:10-14

5:22 – 6:1

6:10-13

6:26-30

5:6-9

5:15-21

6:2-9

6:14-25

7. There seem to be a lot of accusations in these verses. Everyone is unhappy and thinks there is someone to blame. Look back and see how many accusations you can find. For each, note who is accusing whom and if there is any truth to their claim.

5:5 “You make them rest . . .”      Pharaoh accuses Moses /Aaron      false

---

---

---

---

8. You may have noticed that Exodus 6:10-13 and Exodus 6:26-30 have lots of similar phrases. If this is another literary sandwich and the part in the middle is the main point, then probably we should get a handle on the genealogy in v.14-25! Here are a few questions to get you started:

⇒ Which of the names in Exodus 6:14-25 are also in Exodus 1:1-5? \_\_\_\_\_

---

⇒ How many descendants of Reuben are named? \_\_\_\_\_ Simeon? \_\_\_\_\_

⇒ How many descendants of Levi are named? \_\_\_\_\_

⇒ Who is the last descendant of Levi that is given? \_\_\_\_\_

⇒ Which descendants of Levi have been featured in the Exodus story so far?

---

**Time to PRAY** (Or do this at the beginning of your group time)

Share prayer requests that relate to the people in your group & PRAY for them!



**Worship Next Sunday: October 27, 2024**

**“God’s Faithfulness in the Midst of My Despair”**

**(Exodus 5:1-6:30) Pastor Kevin Brubaker**