

Who Is the Lord that I Should Obey His Voice

Exodus 4:6 – 5:2

~ Our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God arrives in Midian in this report where we find Moses running around with a serpent in his hand. That rod is now his rod of Authority; issued by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself when they met at the burning bush. In our last report God said, "the rod in thy hand will become the instrument that convinces the elders." Well, that's God's message to Moses. Moses has been called by God to bring Israel out from being under the cruel bondage of slavery in Egypt and to lead them to worship Him in the wilderness. If you put the rod of the Word of God in the proper man's hands - a man who is fully yielded to the direct will of God – then amazing results will happen with that badge of Authority, friends. You can just write that down.

When the Authority of God is placed in the hands of a man who is in the direct will of our Father in Heaven - a man who will teach it correctly at all cost by allowing the Spirit of God to guide him without bias, prejudice or ill-conceived predetermined ideologies - then you may be absolutely sure the Lord will bless the hearts of literally everyone who comes into contact with that man. In our last report, we saw this great man, Moses, questioning God because Moses didn't think Israel would receive him in the name of the Lord. Moses said he wouldn't be able to be sure he would know when to step out in faith and take them away out of the land. If you haven't read our previous safari report then I highly suggest you go back and do so now. As we begin this report, Moses will state two more very real objections to obeying God at face value. Most people today want to live the "Christian life" according to their own manufactured theology. Well, for those who do, I have bad news for you: you'll never lead a single soul out of Egypt in your own strength; because God says that would literally be impossible....

IV

6 And the LORD said furthermore unto him, Put now thine hand into thy inner spiritual life. And he put his hand into his heart, out of which

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proceed the issues of life: and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous as snow.

7 And he said, Put thine hand into thy bosom again. And he put his hand into his bosom again; and plucked it out of his bosom, and, behold, it was turned again as his other flesh.

8 And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe thee, neither hearken to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign.

~ The hand of a man carries out what is in his inner heart; right down to the fingers typing out a report to turn into the Lord on behalf of His people. The hand is an extension from the mind to manifest the existence of mankind. The rod is only placed by God in the hand of a man who desires to be fully yielded to Him! God insists that hand act in accord with a heart that has been born again; or that man will not be used of God – you can just write that down, too. Jesus saith, “a good tree bringeth forth good fruit; and an evil tree bringeth forth evil fruit.” The issues of life are settled in our hearts and this, quite frankly, is simply all important in your life. Whether or not you know it, accept it or reject it – that comment stands forevermore. This is made crystal clear to us today by God in this section of Scripture; and He made it abundantly clear to Moses in that day.

The Lord Jesus saith, “a good man bringeth forth out of his heart that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasures of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil. For out of the abundance of his heart a man’s mouth speaketh.” The Lord Jesus wants you to give Him your heart and give Him your hand – both! God does not want your money; God desires your heart! If God truly has your heart, then God will get your money. You won’t be able to stop that natural progression. God doesn’t want what you have self-determined to DO, either, by the way. God wants you to lead someone out of the captivity of sin; just as God wanted Moses to lead Israel out of Egypt - His way. If the hand goes in dirty it comes out leprous. If the hand goes in clean you come out clean; friends, you become what you are and not the other way around. I don't care how many times you think you have reinvented yourself; the heart and the hand must move together for God's

glory or you are merely a religious hypocrite. God wanted Moses heart completely yielded to Him! God had no plans to use Moses under any other circumstances. This is tremendous lesson material. It sure was a lesson for Moses and the children of Israel in that day. If you teach this today the congregation may decide to stone you....

9 And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe also these two signs, neither hearken unto thy voice, that thou shalt take of the water of the river, and pour it upon the dry land: and the water which thou takest out of the river shall become blood upon the dry land.

10 And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue.

~ This is the first of two objections Moses gives to God as an excuse not to follow His directions to the letter. I'm not sure if Moses was genuinely concerned with not being able to speak well publicly; or if Moses was seeking for God to change him physically - or, perhaps, there was some other reason. Either way, it seems like he could have gotten started already; but Moses was too busy complaining about how God needed a better spokesman. It's merely an excuse we're dignifying by calling it an objection. Tragically, most people live their entire lives with the Lord continuously complaining and objecting. To his credit, Moses does genuinely feel and sense his own inadequacy; but he still isn't quite ready and willing to fully trust God. Well, the time has come for Moses to get into action and make a move....

11 And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD?

12 Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.

~ Friends, we are going to have to learn the Word of God properly, correctly and completely if we ever hope to learn what God will have us do

and say in this life. If you want to be a blessing to others, then the Lord will have to write His thoughts on your heart and put His words upon your lips. Now, if you are still reading this report, then make no mistake, you better read carefully because they are right before your eyes. So, with all of that understanding and self-realization, Moses says to God, "... send someone else, Lord!" Well, God is sending Moses, but God does permit Aaron, Moses brother, to be the spokesman; and this is but another example of the permissive will of God - which is never the best plan for our lives.

I feel that bringing Aaron into this was the first mistake Moses made in his ministry. God will certainly use Aaron, but the intent was not a divided command, which is what it will become. It definitely causes problems in the future out in the wilderness, which we will discover. Remember, Aaron will be responsible for the manufacturing of the golden calf, which was a terrible blunder in leadership. It affected the thinking of the nation Israel throughout their written Biblical historical record. It is the direct result of a divided command. God didn't need Aaron, but the Lord honored Moses reluctance. We must recognize our weaknesses - true; but when God calls, we need to be willing and able to move out forward in faith, too. Moses is so reluctant and so hesitant that God had to strengthen Moses by adding another man as a helper, thereby granting Moses prayer request. Think that all the way through to its final conclusion, my beloved....

13 And Moses said, O my Lord, send, I pray thee, by the hand of him whom thou wilt send.

14 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and he said, Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee: and when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart.

15 And thou shalt speak unto him, and put words in his mouth: and I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what ye shall do.

16 And he shall be thy spokesman unto the people: and he shall be, even he shall be to thee instead of a mouth, and thou shalt be to him instead of God.

17 And thou shalt take this rod in thine hand, wherewith thou shalt do signs.

18 And Moses went and returned to Jethro his father in law , and said unto him, Let me go, I pray thee, and return unto my brethren which are in Egypt, and see whether they be yet alive. And Jethro said to Moses, Go in peace.

~ Moses may have gotten along well with his father-in-law, but we still have the question of Mrs. Moses. We have had a lingering question of Moses home life and here we get a little more detail. Another new Pharaoh is on the throne after all these years in Egypt. Moses now has the rod of the Authority of God in his hands as he takes the wife and heads back to Egypt. Moses is returning for a very definite purpose, of course – to lead Israel out of the bondage of the sin of slavery; but, even more importantly – to keep the Passover! God tells Moses that Pharaoh will not let them go; and God tells him that Pharaoh’s heart will be hardened. That is a big problem for some people for some reason. We will come back to this later in Exodus and examine it ad infinitude; so, let’s wait to look at that hard issue that proceedeth forth out of thy heart. God will provide reasonable, thinking people a completely satisfactory solution to the hardening of the heart of Pharaoh....

19 And the LORD said unto Moses in Midian, Go, return into Egypt: for all the men are dead which sought thy life.

20 And Moses took his wife and his sons, and set them upon an ass, and he returned to the land of Egypt: and Moses took the rod of God in his hand.

21 And the LORD said unto Moses, When thou goest to return into Egypt, see that thou do all those wonders before Pharaoh, which I have put in thine hand: but I will harden his heart, that he shall not let the people go.

22 And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD, Israel is my son, even my firstborn:

23 And I say unto thee, Let my son go, that he may serve me: and if thou refuse to let him go, behold, I will slay thy son, even thy firstborn.

~ This is a critical juncture as our safari crosses verse twenty-three. God says Pharaoh will set Israel free or God will kill Pharaoh's son. This is, of course, the basis on which the children of Israel are ultimately set free later. After each recorded satanic maneuver that we consider after this, it always comes back to the slaying of the first born. God gives Pharaoh every opportunity under the sun to turn to Him. God didn't start with a death plague out of the loving-kindness of His heart; but Pharaoh has no intentions of availing himself of that which God says - not under any circumstances. God already knows all of this; we're the ones who needed to know! We're going to come back to this in no uncertain terms, later, friends, when Pharaoh's heart IS hardened – and it's a frightful picture. As for this report, we move on into a very strange set of verses where we first see Moses reveal his true objection to God in his heart. Moses neglected the most important of rites – circumcision – which was the seal of the covenant which God had instituted at the beginning with Abraham. Well, the circumcision incident is where we meet the real Mr. and Mr. Moses. It's an unusual thing to look inside their home, to be sure. We have, actually, stopped by at exactly the wrong time; because we see something this is painful to look upon....

24 And it came to pass by the way in the inn, that the LORD met him, and sought to kill him.

25 Then Zipporah took a sharp stone, and cut off the foreskin of her son, and cast it at his feet, and said, Surely a bloody husband art thou to me.

~ Moses had met Zipp when he was a fugitive from a murder warrant in Egypt, you will recall. He likely led an eastern campaign that destroyed and killed a whole lot of people. Moses ends up with a Midianite wife and a Midianite was an offspring of Abraham. Midianites were monotheistic –

they worshipped one God; so, Moses would have been much more relaxed and comfortable in Midian than he would have been in Egypt. In Egypt at this time they worshipped everything that moved. Moses and his father in law, the priest of Midian, remember, have become close friends. This priest had seven daughters and Moses married one - not all of them. Make a note, polygamists. This background is very important to keep before us. By the way, Zipporah means "little birdie." Imagine that....

26 So he let him go: then she said, A bloody husband thou art, because of the circumcision.

27 And the LORD said to Aaron; Go into the wilderness to meet Moses. And he went, and met him in the mount of God, and kissed him.

~ God appeared to Moses at the burning bush and instructed him, so Moses is heading back to Egypt now. Why did God just think to kill Moses, though? – Because circumcision was the badge and the seal of the covenant between God and Abraham. That ritual was not being observed. It was offensive and despised because it was designed to teach them, among other things, that they were to place NO confidence in the flesh whatsoever. Mankind absolutely rejects the teaching that our flesh is to be cut away. God says you really need to contemplate the spiritual implications of that, friends. Our confidence is in Him - not us helping Him out. Abraham believed God and it was counted to him for all righteousness. Performing the rite of circumcision was done in an act of faith. That's what it meant to God and we are told that as many as receive Him gave He them the right to be called the sons of God.

This ritual was an indication that they were sons of Abraham, and it was the outward evidence of their faith. Zipporah is, apparently, resistant to the commandment of the Lord. Moses had neglected this rite and now, all of the sudden, Moses says, "... let's have some blood." It seems so unnecessary to Zipporah, that's all. I don't know if Moses had forgotten about circumcision and suddenly it was brought to his attention again; or maybe he just didn't think it was all that important at the time, either? Maybe Moses did not want to precipitate a marital rift until this time. Who

knows? - Well, what we do know is that Zipporah isn't atheistic; she is simply rebelling against the ordinance of God.

This couple has been shirking their responsibilities to God - and the bill has come due. Most Christian workers, missionaries and church leaders today end up neglecting their own home, which thing ought not be done. This is a very serious situation God reveals to us. We see the danger of any discord amongst husband and wife in spiritual matters. This is the reason the Bible warns against believers marrying an unbeliever. What just happened here is that God would have killed Moses if Zipporah had not performed the rite to save his life! I do hope you understand what you are looking at. It required an act of faith on her part to come under the covenant of Abraham. We have the redemption of blood; no confidence, whatsoever, in the flesh - as we cut it away! Later, Moses father-in-law will bring Zipp back to him for reconciliation. After they get to Egypt and see the real problem, I think Moses sent Zipporah back home to Midian again....

28 And Moses told Aaron all the words of the LORD who had sent him, and all the signs which he had commanded him.

29 And Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel:

30 And Aaron spake all the words which the LORD had spoken unto Moses, and did the signs in the sight of the people.

31 And the people believed: and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped.

~ So, we end this leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God with the contest between Pharaoh and the Lord beginning. The nine plagues against the idolatry of Egypt become a Battle of the Gods. Saying "... let my people go!" has been made famous. Asking "who is the Lord?" - is not quite so popular. The answer, even less popular. Knowing the Lord Jesus Christ according to Holy Writ will answer all of your other questions concerning this life; albeit probably not immediately. You are

going to have to know Him before there can be any deliverance or any redemption of the people you are serving in His Name....

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1 And afterward Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness.

2 And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD; neither will I let Israel go ~

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