

## MOSES – LIFE OF DESTINY #8 “When Things Get Worse”

Exodus 5:6-9

*A common thing happens when people decide to do right: Things get worse! This is a normal part of obedience and development.*

**Exodus 5:6-9** <sup>6</sup>So the same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters of the people and their officers, saying, <sup>7</sup>“You shall no longer give the people straw to make brick as before. Let them go and gather straw for themselves. <sup>8</sup>And you shall lay on them the quota of bricks which they made before. You shall not reduce it. For they are idle; therefore they cry out, saying, ‘Let us go and sacrifice to our God.’ <sup>9</sup>Let more work be laid on the men, that they may labor in it, and let them not regard false words.”

### **I. THE ASSAULT ON GOOD DECISIONS**

A. There are points in time when God speaks & reveals His will for our lives

1. We can decide to believe God for His will

a. **Exodus 4:31** *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.*

2. When we do this we have an expectation of success: *God will bless and help us in all areas of life*

a. *Pharaoh going to weep/apologize – throw a farewell party for us...*

b. *Money will roll in/there will be marriage bliss/people will get saved*

3. Natural/simplistic reasoning: Good decisions should bring good results!

a. *Maybe even sowing & reaping: If I plant some good decisions - I should get some good results*

B. But we see the exact opposite happens

1. Sometimes when we decide to do right – things get worse!

a. **V7** *“You shall no longer give the people straw to make brick as before. Let them go and gather straw for themselves*

1. *The car breaks down/lose a job/someone gets sick/conflict in marriage - relationships*

2. This is because of the enemy’s nature: *Devil/adversary - Opponent/one who stands against you in a lawsuit*

a. He consistently attacks our good decisions

1. **2 Samuel 5:17** *When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king of Israel, they mobilized all their forces to capture him.*

2. *Balak hired Balaam to curse God’s people when they were headed to the Promised land*

b. Messes with your head: *What am I doing wrong? Nothing!*

1. The trouble is because we have made a right decision

### **II. THE AIM OF THE ASSAULT**

A. **The intimidation factor:** The enemy uses fear as a weapon; *Great – is this what I get for obeying?*

1. Point: Get us to back away/go back on our good decisions

a. *Confusion: Are my problems b/c I missed God?* b. *Fear: If I do right – life will be terrible! I will be at risk/family at risk*

2. If you give in to intimidation: Every time you make a good decision you will have trouble!

B. **The expectation factor:** The enemy wants your expectation to become trouble/defeat

1. *Midianites came/attacked their crops at harvest time 6 years in a row:*

2. The expectation becomes trouble: *I know what’s going to happen...*

a. **John 5: Bethesda; 38 years – every time I try...someone gets in ahead of me; Here we go again...**

C. **Changing your viewpoint of God**

1. Fascinating: Pharaoh does this – but they get mad at God!

a. **Exodus 5:21-23** *The foremen said to them, “May the LORD judge you for getting us into this terrible situation with Pharaoh and his officials. You have given them an excuse to kill us!” 22 So Moses went back to the LORD and protested, “Why have you mistreated your own people like this, Lord? Why did you send me? 23 Since I gave Pharaoh your message, he has been even more brutal to your people. You have not even begun to rescue them!”*

1. *You’re not fair! You should have prevented this!*

### **III. THE ATTITUDE OF VICTORY**

1. We have to make up our mind to believe God – above the enemy’s intimidation

a. *God speaks to Moses: I am the Lord...* b. *God’s word is true/God’s will is right – and I will not change my mind*

2. Exodus shows the power of Holy Aggression: **Moses – take it to the enemy/go on the offensive**

a. God will fight for you – if you will fight for yourself!

b. **Matthew 11:12** *from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.*

1. *Necessary kingdom attitude: Violence – lit. aggression/forcefulness*

c. **1 Samuel 17:48** *As Goliath came near to attack him, David ran quickly to meet him.*

1. His faith/attitude caused God to make his arsenal (stones) effective

3. Until we decide to go on the offensive – God’s power is checked

a. *Paul/Acts 16: Gets aggressive against demon spirit; I’m tired of this – come out!*

1. **Prayer/fasting/giving/evangelism: Make the enemy pay!**

4. God allows battles now – b/c we will need to know how to battle later!