

TWO MASTERS



Exodus 5, ESV – Afterward Moses and Aaron went and said to Pharaoh, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘Let my people go, that they may hold a feast to me in the wilderness.’”² But Pharaoh said, “Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, and moreover, I will not let Israel go.”³ Then they said, “The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Please let us go a three days’ journey into the wilderness that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God, lest he fall upon us with pestilence or with the sword.”⁴ But the king of Egypt said to them, “Moses and Aaron, why do you take the people away from their work? Get back to your burdens.”⁵ And Pharaoh said, “Behold, the people of the land are now many, and you make them rest from their burdens!”⁶ The same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters of the people and their foremen,⁷ “You shall no longer give the people straw to make bricks, as in the past; let them go and gather straw for themselves.⁸ But the number of bricks that they made in the past you shall impose on them, you shall by no means reduce it, for they are idle. Therefore they cry, ‘Let us go and offer sacrifice to our God.’”⁹ Let heavier work be laid on the men that they may labor at it and pay no regard to lying words.”

¹⁰ So the taskmasters and the foremen of the people went out and said to the people, “Thus says Pharaoh, ‘I will not give you straw.¹¹ Go and get your straw yourselves wherever you can find it, but your work will not be reduced in the least.’”¹² So the people were scattered throughout all the land of Egypt to gather stubble for straw.¹³ The taskmasters were urgent, saying, “Complete your work, your daily task each day, as when there was straw.”¹⁴ And the foremen of the people of Israel, whom Pharaoh’s taskmasters had set over them, were beaten and were asked, “Why have you not done all your task of making bricks today and yesterday, as in the past?”

¹⁵ Then the foremen of the people of Israel came and cried to Pharaoh, “Why do you treat your servants like this?¹⁶ No straw is given to your servants, yet they say to us, ‘Make bricks!’ And behold, your servants are beaten; but the fault is in your own people.”¹⁷ But he said, “You are idle, you are idle; that is why you say, ‘Let us go and sacrifice to the LORD.’”¹⁸ Go now and work. No straw will be given you, but you must still deliver the same number of bricks.”¹⁹ The foremen of the people of Israel saw that they were in trouble when they said, “You shall by no means reduce your number of bricks, your daily task each day.”²⁰ They met Moses and Aaron, who were waiting for them, as they came out from Pharaoh;²¹ and they said to them, “The LORD look on you and judge, because you have made us stink in the sight of Pharaoh and his servants, and have put a sword in their hand to kill us.”

²² Then Moses turned to the LORD and said, “O Lord, why have you done evil to this people? Why did you ever send me?²³ For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has done evil to this people, and you have not delivered your people at all.”

Notes:

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SERMON-BASED STUDY

For the week of November 17, 2019

Exodus 5

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 This weekend we were reminded that obedience to God does not always lead to a better or easier situation. Why does obedience to God sometimes lead to more difficult situations?
- 2 What does Moses' response to God in verses 22-23 reveal about his state of mind? About his faith?
- 3 Describe a time in your life when obeying God led to a difficult situation. How did you feel in those circumstances? Did you question or doubt God? Explain.

DIGGING DEEPER

A **Matt 6:24, ESV** – ²⁴ “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

4 Looking at the passage above, what is the warning about serving two masters?

5 Share about a time in your life when you were trying to serve two masters. How did that work out?

B **Matt 11:29-30, ESV** – ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

6 In your own words, explain what Jesus means by “take my yoke upon you.” Is work still involved when we take on Jesus’ yoke? Explain.

7 Based on the passage above and Exodus 5, compare and contrast Jesus’ yoke and Pharaoh’s yoke?

8 How does taking on someone’s yoke relate to having them as a master?

C **Col 3:23-24, ESV** – ²³ Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

9 When reading Colossians 3:23-24, we see a commandment in regards to our work. What does it look like for a believer to ‘work heartily, as for the Lord’?

10 What other benefits (besides those found in Col 3:24) can arise from doing our work as if we are serving the Lord?

TAKING IT HOME

God calls each of us to obedience through Christ. Obedience does not always mean an easy life, but it does mean God will be with us in all circumstances. How are you doing with obedience? Who or what is your master? Share with your group or accountability partner and pray for an obedient heart for Christ.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Luke 16:13