

Sermon Series: “Moses–God’s Poster Child of Meekness and Dedication”

Lord of Life Lutheran, Westfield, IN-6/27/10

Title: “Going from Bad to Worse”

Text: Exodus 5-6 (selected verses)

Intro.: Illus.: Going from Bad to Worse

Theme: Even when our own short comings and the fallen nature of our world around us appear to doom our efforts and negatively impact our lives, God’s redeeming intervention is at work accomplishing His saving plan for us.

Living life in a world in which everything is “going south”

For Moses, unconditional obedience did not introduce a life of peace into his life

1. Moses’ bold confession of Yahweh as “Lord” caused an even more defiant rebellion from Pharaoh
2. Moses’ compromising response resulted in insufferable work conditions for the Israelites
3. Moses’ was confronted by a lynch-mob of Israelites who blamed him for all the mess
 - a. **Illus.: Unbelieve-ability**

Don’t be surprised by the fiery ordeal we experience when walking in God’s way

1. Guarding your response to God in those times of free fall

Challenging God’s way and intention is presumptuous and destructive

1. When we are hurt by sin of our world, we want to lash out at our God and Savior who wants to deliver us from it
 - a. We can run from the very One who has the healing, who has the escape, and who can redeem troubled life
 - b. Returning to God in quiet reflection and worship to hear rather
2. *Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools, who do not know that they do wrong. Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your hear to utter anything before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few. Eccles. 5:1-2*

Questioning God for wisdom and patience is encouraged and answered by God (**Print Exodus 5: 22-23; 6: 9-12**)

1. Moses had two simple questions:
 - a. Why did you let this trouble happen to your people?
 - b. How will I get Pharaoh to listen and do what you ask if I can’t even get the Israelites to listen to me?
2. Like Moses, we get lost in the detail and forget what is the main thing
 - a. Moses knew to deliver Israel but forgot that God’s grand plan was to show his glory to nations thru Pharaoh
 - b. Often, God has several ways to accomplish his will which he has not yet revealed to you and me
 - c. **Illus.: The Danger of Peep-hole Driving**
3. God encourages us to ask when we seek wisdom to quiet our aching heart and angry mind
 - a. *If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. James 1:5*

Listening for God’s response back to you in your time of need

God says, “I AM” and always will be

1. 5Xs in Chp 6 – God uses his newly revealed name of Yahweh=I AM. — not of the past or distant future but now
2. God’s promise to Moses was about a promise that was as good as the day he spoke it to Abraham 500 years prior
3. *For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God. 2 Cor. 1:20*
4. When dealing with a rebellious child, reality denying parent, cruel boss, broken marriage, a shattered dream

God says, “I Will

To Moses and Israel God painted a future picture of their existence

- a. God *will deliver* from the yoke of bondage
- b. God *will free* from being slaves
- c. God *will redeem* their current trauma to bring blessing
- d. God *will adopt them* as his people
- e. God *will be their God* and never go back on his promises
- f. God *will bring them to the promised land* – a realized future hope
- g. God *will give the land as a down payment* – on his promise to send a Messiah

2. God says the same thing to us: *For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:11-13*
3. **Illus.: Get the Name Right**

Going from Bad to Worse

Carroll County is reporting extensive damage near Yeoman. The Methodist church was damaged for the second time in a week along with several homes. A week ago on June 6th, the education wing of the church was significantly damaged when part of the roof was ripped off by a F-3 tornado. Saturday (June 18th) straight line winds, exceeding 60 mph, struck the church when a severe line of storms came through Carroll County. The roof of the sanctuary was lifted off and damaged. Several members expressed dismay over how this turn of events went from bad to worse and probably would keep the congregation's members from using the building for worship until structural engineers assessed its structural reliability. **All content © Copyright 2000 - 2010 Primeland Television, Inc. All Rights Reserved**

Unbelieve-ability

In 1993 FBI agents conducted a raid of Southwood psychiatric hospital in San Diego, which was under investigation for medical insurance fraud. After hours of reviewing medical records, the agents had worked up an appetite. The agent in charge of the investigation called a nearby pizza parlor to order a quick dinner for his colleagues.

Agent: Hello. I would like to order 19 large pizzas and 67 cans of soda. Pizza Man: And where would you like them delivered?

Agent: We're over at the psychiatric hospital. Pizza Man: The psychiatric hospital? Agent: That's right. I'm an FBI agent. Pizza

Man: You're an FBI agent? Agent: That's correct. Just about everybody here is. Pizza Man: And you're at the psychiatric

hospital? Agent: That's correct. And make sure you don't go through the front doors. We have them locked. You will have to

go around to the back to the service entrance to deliver the pizzas. Pizza Man: And you say you're all FBI agents? Agent: That's

right. How soon can you have them here? Pizza Man: And everyone at the psychiatric hospital is an FBI agent? Agent: That's

right. We've been here all day and we're starving. Pizza Man: How are you going to pay for all of this? Agent: I have my

checkbook right here. Pizza Man: And you're all FBI agents? Agent: That's right. Everyone here is an FBI agent. Can you

remember to bring the pizzas and sodas to the service entrance in the rear? We have the front doors locked. Pizza Man: I don't

think so. ** Click ** Kevin A. Miller, vice president, Christianity Today International; source: www.vasthumor.isfunny.com; and www.snopes.com

The Danger of Peep-hole Driving

As the recent winter approached, **USA Today** writer **Larry Copeland** wrote a story about the danger of "peephole" driving. Anyone who lives in the frozen north has likely been a peephole driver at some point. You're in a hurry to get to work on time, and when you walk out into the cold you find that your car is encased in a layer of snow and ice from an overnight storm. You start the car and turn up the heater. You get out your scraper and battle to chip out a clear space on your windshield. After a few minutes you have cleared away an opening the size of a large pepperoni pizza. You are now shivering and miserable, and you realize this will take 10 more minutes. So you move to the rear window and scrape off a narrower opening the size of a small sausage pizza with extra olives and do the same with the side windows. You throw caution to the frigid winds and get in the car and drive away. Then it hits you: you can hardly see. You drive really slow and lean up close to the windshield and peer out your peephole and hope against hope that you don't run into anyone before the heater and defrosters melt more of the ice away from your windows. Worse yet, as you peer out your peephole, you notice that other drivers are peering out their peepholes! Copeland's article ends with this warning from the North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles: "Peephole driving is an invitation to disaster." Peephole driving is an apt picture of what it's like to go through life with the limited vision that comes from limited understanding and wisdom—the kind of limitations that come from not knowing the Scriptures.

Get the Name Right

At a friend's garden wedding, I was asked to read a passage from Jeremiah. At the rehearsal, I asked the pastor how to pronounce the word Yahweh. Unfortunately, at the wedding, I slipped up and said in my thick Texan accent, "Yahoo is with you." **Betty Mannon, Burleson, Texas. "Rolling Down the Aisle," Christian Reader.**

1 Peter 4:12-16

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. ¹⁶However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.

Exodus 5:1-6:30

¹Afterward Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival to me in the desert.' " ²Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD and I will not let Israel go."

³Then they said, "The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Now let us take a three-day journey into the desert to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God, or he may strike us with plagues or with the sword." ⁴But the king of Egypt said, "Moses and Aaron, why are you taking the people away from their labor? Get back to your work!" ⁵Then Pharaoh said, "Look, the people of the land are now numerous, and you are stopping them from working." ⁶That same day Pharaoh gave this order to the slave drivers and foremen in charge of the people: ⁷"You are no longer to supply the people with straw for making bricks; let them go and gather their own straw. ⁸But require them to make the same number of bricks as before; don't reduce the quota. They are lazy; that is why they are crying out, 'Let us go and sacrifice to our God.' ⁹Make the work harder for the men so that they keep working and pay no attention to lies." ¹⁰Then the slave drivers and the foremen went out and said to the people, "This is what Pharaoh says: 'I will not give you any more straw. ¹¹Go and get your own straw wherever you can find it, but your work will not be reduced at all.' " ¹²So the people scattered all over Egypt to gather stubble to use for straw. ¹³The slave drivers kept pressing them, saying, "Complete the work required of you for each day, just as when you had straw." ¹⁴The Israelite foremen appointed by Pharaoh's slave drivers were beaten and were asked, "Why didn't you meet your quota of bricks yesterday or today, as before?" ¹⁵Then the Israelite foremen went and appealed to Pharaoh: "Why have you treated your servants this way? ¹⁶Your servants are given no straw, yet we are told, 'Make bricks!' Your servants are being beaten, but the fault is with your own people." ¹⁷Pharaoh said, "Lazy, that's what you are-- lazy! That is why you keep saying, 'Let us go and sacrifice to the LORD.' ¹⁸Now get to work. You will not be given any straw, yet you must produce your full quota of bricks."

¹⁹The Israelite foremen realized they were in trouble when they were told, "You are not to reduce the number of bricks required of you for each day." ²⁰When they left Pharaoh, they found Moses and Aaron waiting to meet them, ²¹and they said, "May the LORD look upon you and judge you! You have made us a stench to Pharaoh and his officials and have put a sword in their hand to kill us."

²²Moses returned to the LORD and said, "O Lord, why have you brought trouble upon this people? Is this why you sent me? ²³Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has brought trouble upon this people, and you have not rescued your people at all."

^{6:1}Then the LORD said to Moses, "Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh: Because of my mighty hand he will let them go; because of my mighty hand he will drive them out of his country."

²God also said to Moses, "I am the LORD. ³I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob as God Almighty, but by my name the LORD I did not make myself known to them. ⁴I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, where they lived as aliens. ⁵Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the Israelites, whom the Egyptians are enslaving, and I have remembered my covenant."

⁶"Therefore, say to the Israelites: 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. ⁷I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. ⁸And I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the LORD.' "

⁹Moses reported this to the Israelites, but they did not listen to him because of their discouragement and cruel bondage.

¹⁰Then the LORD said to Moses, ¹¹"Go, tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the Israelites go out of his country." ¹²But Moses said to the LORD, "If the Israelites will not listen to me, why would Pharaoh listen to me, since I speak with faltering lips?"