

## **Exodus 5-6**

### ***When Life Seems Unfair***

October 25, 2020 – Rev. Rick Lyon

**Exodus 5:1-14** - Afterward Moses and Aaron went in and told Pharaoh, “Thus says the Lord God of Israel: ‘Let My people go, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness.’”

And Pharaoh said, “Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I don't know the Lord, nor will I let Israel go.”

So they said, "The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Please, let us go three days' journey into the desert and sacrifice to the Lord our God, lest He fall upon us with pestilence or with the sword.”

Then the king of Egypt said to them, “Moses and Aaron, why do you take the people from their work? Get back to your labor." And Pharaoh said, “Look, the people of the land are many now, and you make them rest from their labor!”

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

And the taskmasters of the people and their officers went out and spoke to the people, saying, “Thus says Pharaoh: ‘I won't give you straw. Go, get yourselves straw where you can find it; yet none of your work will be reduced.’” So the people were scattered abroad throughout all the land of Egypt to gather stubble instead of straw. And the taskmasters *forced* them to hurry, saying, “Fulfill your work, your daily quota, as when there was straw.” Also the officers of the children of Israel, whom Pharaoh's taskmasters had set over them, were beaten and were asked, “Why haven't you fulfilled your task in making brick both yesterday and today, as before?”

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#### **Reason #1 - We're foreigners living in a strange land.**

**Hebrews 11:13-16** - They were foreigners and strangers on earth. People who say such things are looking forward to a country of their own... They long for a better country--a heavenly one.

**Rev. 21:5** - The One seated on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new."

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#### **Reason #2 - For our growth.**

**v. 20** - As they came out from Pharaoh, they met Moses and Aaron...and said to them, "Let the Lord look on you and judge, because you've made us abhorrent in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants..."

**v. 15** - The officers of the children of Israel came and cried out to Pharaoh, saying, "Why are you dealing thus with your servants?"

**v. 22** - So Moses returned to the Lord and said, "Lord, why have You brought trouble on this people? Why is it You've sent me? For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in Your name, he has done evil to this people; neither have You delivered Your people at all."

**God isn't afraid of your honest questions.**

- **Abraham was called a friend of God.**
- **David was called a man after God's own heart.**
- **God said, "There's no one upright and blameless like Job."**

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- **Jesus: "Of those born of women there hasn't risen anyone greater than John the Baptist."**
- **All of them had honest, heartfelt questions for God.**

**Abraham:** *"Lord God, what will you give me for I continue childless?"*

**Job:** *"Why do you hide your face from me and count me as your enemy?"*

**David:** *"LORD, why do you stand far away? Why do you hide yourself in time of trouble?"*

**John the Baptist:** *"Are you really the Christ or should we look for someone else?"*

**Jesus, Himself, on the cross:** *"My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?"*

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### **Reason #3 - For God's glory.**

**v. 6:1-2** - Then the Lord said to Moses, "Now you shall see what *I will* do to Pharaoh. For with a strong hand he'll let them go, and with a strong hand he'll drive them out of his land."

And God spoke to Moses and said to him: "*I am the Lord*. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as *God Almighty*, but by My name *Lord* I wasn't known to them.

**v. 4-8** - I've also established My covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, in which they were strangers. And I've also heard the groaning of the children of Israel whom the Egyptians keep in bondage, and I've remembered My covenant. Therefore say to the children of

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Israel: *‘I am the Lord; I will* bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, *I will* rescue you from their bondage, and *I will* redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. *I will* take you as My people, and *I will* be your God. Then you shall know that *I am the Lord your God* who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. And *I will* bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and *I will* give it to you as a heritage: *I am the Lord.*’”

**John 9:3** - Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but *this happened so that the works of God would be displayed in him.*”

**Hebrews 11** - By faith *the walls of Jericho fell down...* By faith the harlot Rahab *didn't perish...* By faith they: subdued kingdoms, stopped the mouths of lions, escaped the edge of the sword. Women received their dead raised to life again. *Others:* were tortured, were mocked, whipped and imprisoned. They were stoned, sawn in two and slain with the sword.

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**5:1** Afterward Moses and Aaron went in and told Pharaoh, “Thus says the Lord God of Israel: ‘Let My people go, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness.’” **2** And Pharaoh said, “Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I don't know the Lord, nor will I let Israel go.” **3** So they said, “The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Please, let us go three days’ journey into the desert and sacrifice to the Lord our God, lest He fall upon us with pestilence or with the sword.” **4** Then the king of Egypt said to them, “Moses and Aaron, why do you take the people from their work? Get back to your labor.” **5** And Pharaoh said, “Look, the people of the land are many now, and you make them rest from their labor!” **6** So the same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters of the people and their officers, saying, **7** “You shall no longer give the people straw to make brick as before. Let them go and gather straw for themselves. **8** 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.’ **9** Let more work be laid on the men, that they may labor in it, and let them not regard false words.” **10** And the taskmasters of the people and their officers went out and spoke to the people, saying, “Thus says Pharaoh: ‘I won't give you straw. **11** Go, get yourselves straw where you can find it; yet none of your work will be reduced.’” **12** So the people were scattered abroad throughout all the land of Egypt to gather stubble instead of straw. **13** And the taskmasters forced them to hurry, saying, “Fulfill your work, your daily quota, as when there was straw.” **14** Also the officers of the children of Israel, whom Pharaoh’s taskmasters had set over them, were beaten and were asked, “Why haven't you fulfilled your task in making brick both yesterday and today, as before?”

***Why does life seem unfair? Why do "unfair" things happen?***

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**Reason #1 - We're \_\_\_\_\_ living in a \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Hebrews 11:13-16 - They (speaking of believers) were foreigners and strangers on earth. People who say such things are looking forward to a country of their own... They long for a better country--a heavenly one.**

**Reason #2 - For our \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Reason #3 - For God's \_\_\_\_\_.**

**6:1 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh. For with a strong hand he will let them go, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land.” 2 And God spoke to Moses and said to him: “I am the Lord. 3 I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name Lord I wasn't known to them.**

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**John 9:3** - Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but **this happened so that the works of God would be displayed in him.**”