**The Gospel According to Moses**

**I Am and I will**

**Exodus 6:**

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We are in a Sermon Series called the Gospel According to Moses, working our way through the book of Exodus. We are in chapter six today. In chapter five, Moses and Aaron tell Pharoah to let Israel go and instead of letting them go, he made life harder for them. Instead of things getting better, they got worse. God responds to their discouragement by reminding Moses that he is the I Am who says I will.

My Big idea is that God is faithful to his promises, though he does not always fulfill them when we want or the way we expect.

**Moses Complains to God (5:22-6:1)**

We ended chapter five with Moses complaining that God let him down (5:22-23). All of us can probably identify with Moses’ complaining at some time in our lives. Why am I still single when I want to be married? Why is my marriage so difficult? Why is parenting so difficult or why have my kids turned away from you? Or maybe you are in junior high and are complaining, why do other kids pick on me? Maybe you are frustrated by some sin that plagues you and you have asked God, why can’t you just make it go away? Maybe it is anger, pornography, or some addiction.

God responds by first, taking Moses’ eyes off of himself and telling him what he is going to do (1-2). He is clear, now you will see what I will do to Pharoah, with a strong hand he will send Israel out; with a strong hand he will drive them out. Pharoah will not just let Israel go, he will drive them out. Just because things are not going the way you think they should does not mean God is not working or preparing you for what he is going to do. God does for Moses what God does for all of us. He brings the truth of his word/promise to Moses’ mind and comfort to his heart. God is working to make it clear that God is Israel’s deliverer not Moses. If Pharoah had complied to Moses’ request after the first go around, the people would have hailed Moses as their hero. Moses is God’s mouthpiece, not Israel’s deliverer. God will get the glory not Moses. Pharoah will drive Israel out of Egypt because God will act. We often expect God to act in a certain way and are disappointed and complain when he doesn’t. God never gives us all the details because he calls us to live by faith not by sight. We even see this in the disciples when Jesus tells them he is going to the cross. Peter rebukes him that such a thing will not happen, but Jesus then rebukes Peter, get behind me Satan. When you are discouraged and disappointed, takes your eyes off of yourself and your circumstances and look to God’s promises.

**God is Faithful (6:2-5)**

God responds next by taking Moses’ eyes of himself and his difficulties by reminding him that God is faithful. He gives four examples of his faithfulness. First, he appeared to the Patriarchs, revealing himself to them. He made himself known to them as God Almighty but not as the Lord/Yahweh. God will now reveal himself to Israel in a new way. But if you have read Genesis, you know that Yahweh is used over one hundred times. How do we reconcile the this? This way, God never revealed himself to the patriarchs the way he will to Israel in the Exodus. Remember, Pharoah asked, who is the Lord and God is going to show him who is the Lord. Next, God reminds him that he established his covenant with Abraham. God will act in the Exodus because he established his covenant with Abraham, promising him the land of Canaan and now he will fulfill that promise by taking Israel into the promised land. Third, God reminds Moses that he is faithful to listen/hear, he has heard the groaning of Israel’s suffering. God is not ignoring them or you. And finally, remembers his covenant and is going to act. Never think God has forgotten you, when he seems absent, he is preparing to act.

**God’s Promises are True (6:6-13)**

Notice the therefore, the text is drawing a conclusion, because God is faithful, Moses is to speak the truth of God’s promises to the people. Moses is a prophet who speaks the word of God to the people of God. That is how the reformer John Calvin described preaching. Preachers are God’s mouthpiece to his people. I trust you come here, wanting to hear from God. God gives Israel seven promises to inspire hope (6-8).

First, I will bring you out from your suffering. God will free them from their suffering and God will ultimately free us from all our suffering. Suffering for Christians is always temporary. God will correct all that is wrong, either in this life or in the next. The next two promises go together, I will deliver you from slavery and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm. The apostle Paul links together in the gospel, He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins (Col 1:13-14). Deliverance points to God as Savior who rescues us from sin and Satan. But God does more than just deliver us, he redeems us to make us his own people. In the Ancient Near East, when one’s family was enslaved to another, the family would purchase their redemption as their kinsmen redeemer. God redeemed us because we are his family, he is our God and we are his people. That leads us to the the fourth and fifth promise, God takes Israel to be his people and he will be their God. They will know that I am the lord/Yahweh your God. We keep seeing that in the Exodus, Israel will know the Lord/Yahweh who has brought them out of their suffering. The sixth and seventh promises are, God will bring them into the land and give it to them as a possession (8). God has a plan, God will execute that plan, and Israel will be the recipients of his grace and mercy. Yet Israel when Moses spoke these promises to Israel, they would not listen because the suffering of slavery had broken their spirit. They were so hopeless, so defeated, so bitter that they could not believe God’s promises. Sometimes people are so broken by life that they cannot believe God would or could save them. Sometimes people are so broken they do not see any hope of deliverance. Moses is discouraged, again, so that when God tells Moses to go back to Pharoah and demand that he let Israel go, he feels defeated. If Israel won’t listen to me, surely Pharoah won’t either. Moses defaults to his original doubts, don’t send me, I cannot speak. You may and probably should doubt your abilities but do not doubt what God can do in and with and through you. God’s nature is to be faithful; he can do nothing but be faithful to his people. Moses needs confidence and courage for the Exodus and God’s faithfulness and his promises inspire both confidence and courage.

Life Group Questions:

1. Summarize Exodus 6:1-13 in your own words.
2. Why do we tend to complain when life does not go our way?
3. Why will Pharoah drive Israel out?
4. Why did it take so long for Pharoah to drive out Israel?
5. Why do God remind Moses of past faithfulness?
6. Why does God give Israel so many promises?
7. What does this teach us about following Jesus in discipleship?
8. How is God asking you to respond to this passage?