

## Freedom from Bondage      Exodus 5 – 11

### Freedom from Bondage    Introduction

- The Rich Young Man    Mark 10:17-22
- Jesus doesn't argue with the man about whether or not he is really such a good person.
- Jesus points out that there is something in his heart that has taken the place of God.
- "He went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions."
  
- What might there be that is preventing us from wholeheartedly following Jesus?
- We'll come back to this question later.
- First we're going to look at the showdown between God and the idols of Egypt.
- In case you're wondering, God wins.

### Freedom from Bondage    Outline

- Freedom Commanded
- The Destruction of Idols
- The Danger of Compromise

### Freedom Commanded

*"Let my people go ... !"*    (7x)

- 5:1-2
- 7:16
- 8:1
- 8:20
- 9:1
- 9:13
- 10:3

### The Destruction of Idols

- Warren Wiersbe points out three separate things that the plagues upon Egypt accomplished:
  - They were signs to Israel, assuring them of God's power and care.
  - They were judgments upon Egypt for their oppression of Israel, and which revealed the vanity of their gods.
  - They foreshadowed more serious judgments to come, as revealed in the Book of Revelation.
  
- They were judgments upon Egypt for their oppression of Israel, and which revealed the vanity of their gods.
  - See Genesis 12:1-3, especially v.3

- The Nile itself was sacred to the Egyptians.
- The goddess Heqt was pictured as a frog.
- The Egyptians worshiped various insects.
- Hathor and Apis were a sacred cow and bull, respectively.
- They had various gods and goddesses of health and safety.
- Ra, the sun god was chief of all their gods.
- Meskhemit, goddess of birth and Hathor were supposed to watch over the firstborn.

### **The Danger of Compromise**

- Compare Pharaoh's voice in each of these responses to the trio of the world, the flesh and the devil, when confronted with God's command to set us free from idolatry.
  - Stay right here. 8:25-27
  - Don't go too far. 8:28
  - Not everyone has to go. 10:7-11
  - God doesn't need your possessions. 10:24
- Stay right here. 8:25-27
  - In other words, just add the worship of God to the life you already have.
  - Leave the life you have, with all its various idols, intact.
- Don't go too far. 8:28
  - The danger here is that as long as we remain close to our old lives, we may always be tempted to go back to them.
  - We distance ourselves from old habits and practices, but keep them within our field of vision.
- Not everyone has to go. 10:7-11
  - This lie says,
  - "Such radical life-change may be for some people, but it isn't for everyone. You don't really want to turn into some kind of fanatic."
- God doesn't need your possessions. 10:24
  - This lie admits the need to give up blatant sin.
  - It simply remains tied to material possessions.
  - This was the exact issue the rich young man was facing when he knelt down before Jesus.

### **Freedom from Bondage Final Thoughts**

- We need to face up to the fact that our idols hold us in bondage to themselves.
- Our idolatry not only deserves God's judgment, but it holds us back from the spiritual freedom that is only found in wholehearted devotion to Him.

*“There is no use trying to hide from ourselves that awful truth—God is not weakly indulgent. Our God can be, if he will, a consuming fire.”*

– Charles Kingsley (1819 – 1875)

*“The same fire softens wax and hardens clay. Whosoever is not brought near is driven farther off, by the influences which God brings to bear on us.”*

– Alexander Maclaren (1826 – 1910)

- Final Passage: Mark 8:34-38
- How are we going to respond?