

(Exodus 5)
“A Break Through In Faith”

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled this message: **“Struggles In Ministry”**
 - (Exodus 5) NLT

~ INTRO ~

LAST WEEK OUR STUDY REVEALED...

- That God welcomes honest questions...
 - But again... we saw...
 - He does not delight in lame excuses (Ex. 4:1).

AND WE DISCUSSED...

- That going deeper with God can be scary at times!
 - Because there are steps of faith God wants us to take.

BUT WHY IS IT SCARY?

- Because our human mind thinks in terms of limitations...
 - And not in terms of abundance.
 - There is nothing too hard for God!

(Jer. 32:17-20) NLT

YET...

- As we've read about Moses' story...
 - We see that God had a plan for his entire life.
 - God has repeatedly attempted to connect with Moses...
 - And God has been patient with Moses.

THESE ARE THE SAME TRUTHS GOD HAS FOR YOU...

- A plan for your entire life.
- He repeatedly looks to connect with you.
- He is patience with you.

NOW...

- In (Chp. #5) follow along as I read the opening verse (Ex. 5:1-5).

HERE'S A FEW THINGS WE CAN LEARN:

IDEA #1 – GOD WAS ON THE MOVE: (vv.1-5)

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- (Chp. #4) closed as Moses returns to Egypt...
 - With a God given assignment to do (Ex. 4:21).

SO...

- Moses & Aaron go to the King of Egypt – The Pharaoh...
 - And they seem to get a little soft in the message...
 - When Pharaoh pushes back on them (v.2) NLT.
- (v.3) NKJV
 - “*please let us go...* ”
- (v.5) NKJV
 - “*you make them rest from their labor...* ”

HERE’S WHAT WE CAN LEARN...

- We find rest for our souls in God’s grace!
 - (Matt. 11:28-30) NLT

BUT THE STRUGGLE FOR MANY TODAY...

- Is just the same... we strive to get ahead in a fallen world.
 - So God gives us perspective in His wisdom
 - (Proverbs 23:4-5) NLT

IN YOUR CHRISTIAN LIFE...

- When you relate to God under the law...
 - You’re always striving to work harder...
 - And are never at rest.

REMEMBER...

- We have peace with God thru Christ Jesus (Rom. 5:1-2) NLT...
 - And thru Jesus we have the peace of God in our hearts.
 - (John 14:27) NLT
 - (2 Peter 1:2) NLT

IDEA #2 – CONDITIONS GOT WORSE: (vv.6-21)

IF GOD WAS ON THE MOVE...

- Why did the conditions get worse?

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CONSIDER A FEW REASONS:

1) *A test of my motives...*

WHY AM I CALLING ON GOD?

- Many people are just looking for different conditions...
 - They seek God for relief, but NOT for repentance!

2) *A test of my faith...*

DO I BELIEVE GOD IS... WHO HE SAYS HE IS?

- (Heb. 11:1) NLT
 - I trust God even when my prayer appear to make things worse.

3) *A trial from Satan...*

SATAN LOVES TO SIFT US...

- As we step out in faith to trust God.
 - Satan loves to bring discouragement...
 - So we give up and go back.

PRESSURE REVEALS THE CRACKS IN OUR FAITH...

- The weak spots God is strengthening in us.

THIS IS WHAT MOSES...

- Was wrestling with.

IDEA #3 – MOSES QUESTIONED HIS ASSIGNMENT: (vv.22-23)

WE SEE SEVERAL THINGS HERE...

- 1) Moses calls into question God’s faithfulness
- 2) Moses questions his calling

THE BIBLE SAYS...

- (Isa. 55:8-9) NLT

AND WE SHOULD USE THIS...

- When we begin to question...
 - The steps of faith we have taken.

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- The sacrifices we have made.
- The new life we have started.

AND IN THE CASE OF THIS SCENE...

- The very people Moses was called to lead...
 - Questioned the direction he was going.

YET THE BIBLE TELLS US...

- (Ps. 77:19-20) NLT
 - (Heb. 13:17) NLT

TODAY WE CAN RECOGNIZE TWO SIMPLE TRUTHS:

- When my prayers are **delayed**...
 - God is teaching me to submit to Him.
 - (His timing / His wisdom / His ways)

AND...

- When **suffering** happens in my life...
 - God is teaching me to trust Him.
- When I don't understand what He is doing...
 - I have to fall back on what He has already done.
 - He is good and perfect in all of His ways!

AMEN!

~ IN CLOSING ~

IF YOU NEED PRAYER TONIGHT...

- Please take a step of faith and visit with one of the pastors down front.
- Ladies we also have a women's ministry leader down front too.
 - She is NOT a pastor and not for you men!