

## FAITHFUL AND TRUE

### **WHEN THE WORK DOESN'T SEEM TO BE WORKING**

Exodus 5:1-23      Jeff Schreve

What are we to do when obedience seems to make it worse?

#### **1. We go to the Lord in prayer.**

A. We go to Him with our broken heart and our questions.

*Trust in Him at all times, O people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Selah. Psalm 62:8*

B. We get completely honest with Him.

*"Ever since I came to Pharaoh to speak in Your name, he has done harm to this people; and You have not delivered Your people at all." Exodus 5:23*

*"... you with the elders of Israel will come to the king of Egypt, and you will say to him, 'The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. So now, please, let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.' But I know that the king of Egypt will not permit you to go, except under compulsion. So I will stretch out My hand, and strike Egypt with all My miracles which I shall do in the midst of it; and after that he will let you go." Exodus 3:18-20*

#### **2. We remind ourselves that God has a wonderful plan.**

*Then the LORD said to Moses, "Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh; for under compulsion he shall let them go, and under compulsion he shall drive them out of his land." Exodus 6:1*

A. God sets the stage for His glory to be displayed.

*"Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Let My people go that they may celebrate a feast to Me in the wilderness.'" But Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, and besides, I will not let Israel go." Exodus 5:1-2*

\* Pharaoh turns up the heat, and God responds with heat.

B. God is more concerned with timing than He is time.

*I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living. Wait for the LORD; Be strong, and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the LORD. Psalm 27:13-14*

#### **3. We remind ourselves that God has a wonderful purpose.**

*God spoke further to Moses and said to him, "I am the LORD ; and I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name, LORD, I did not make Myself known to them. Exodus 6:2-3*

**A. God wants His people to know that He is I AM.**

*"I also established My covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they sojourned. Furthermore I have heard the groaning of the sons of Israel, because the Egyptians are holding them in bondage, and I have remembered My covenant. Say, therefore, to the sons of Israel, 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from their bondage. I will also redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. Then I will take you for My people, and I will be your God; and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. I will bring you to the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and I will give it to you for a possession; I am the LORD.'" So Moses spoke thus to the sons of Israel, but they did not listen to Moses on account of their despondency and cruel bondage. Exodus 6:4-9*

**B. God wants His enemies to know that He is I AM.**

*"When Pharaoh does not listen to you, then I will lay My hand on Egypt and bring out My hosts, My people the sons of Israel, from the land of Egypt by great judgments. The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch out My hand on Egypt and bring out the sons of Israel from their midst." Exodus 7:4-5*

*"For Pharaoh will say of the sons of Israel, 'They are wandering aimlessly in the land; the wilderness has shut them in.' Thus I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will chase after them; and I will be honored through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD." Exodus 14:13-14*

*"Then the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD, when I am honored through Pharaoh, through his chariots and his horsemen." Exodus 14:18*

**When the work doesn't seem to be working, keep looking to the One who is faithful and true.**