

Who Is the Lord? Response Guide

Exodus 5:1-7:7

Bethany Assembly of God

March 7, 2021

- Begin by reading Exodus 5:1-3.
- What is the key question that Pharaoh asks and that God will answer through great displays of power in the coming chapters?
- How do you think this question relates to our church's vision?

Renewing Bethany's foundation for an overflow of God's presence in the Pioneer Valley and around the world.

- What do you think Pharaoh's negative and condescending answer reveals about what happens when God decides to reveal Himself?
- Can you think of any other examples of negative reactions to God's revelations of Himself in Scripture?

This passage, and others like it, teach us that we should prepare for when God reveals himself because it may not happen exactly as we think and people may not react in the manner we dream they will.

1. You can expect increased opposition.

- Why is it important to think of the increased opposition we will face ahead of time?
- Read Exodus 5:4-19. Was Pharaoh's response to Moses' request reasonable?
- Had God warned Moses that Pharaoh would harden His heart? (cf. Ex. 3:19-20; 4:21)
- Why do you think Moses and the Israelites were so disappointed by what happened that they wanted to just forget the whole thing?
- Have you ever been taken off guard by something that you should have expected? What was it and why were you surprised? Does this reveal anything about the nature of expectations?

- When God begins to reveal Himself in our midst, what opposition might we face?
- How can we be better prepared to handle that opposition?

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

1 Peter 4:12–13

2. You can respond to God's leaders with faithfulness.

- Read Exodus 5:20-21. Was it fair for the Israelites to blame Moses and Aaron? Can you understand why they did?
- Do you think that Pharaoh's response to Moses was random or that it was calculated to drive a wedge between the people and the leader God sent, *i.e.* Moses?
- What does the Bible have to say about responding to spiritual leadership? Are spiritual leaders above questioning? Are they superior to others or have some kind of special access to God?
- Consider some passages from the New Testament about leaders in the Church: 1 Tim. 3:-17; 1 Tim. 5:17-19; Hebrews 13:17.
- How does the Enemy still try to drive a wedge between God's people and those He appoints to lead? How can we combat this?

3. You can silence self-doubt.

- Read Exodus 5:22-6:30. (If you're in a group, I recommend you break this section up!)
- What would have happened if Pharaoh had simply capitulated the first time Moses walked in and said, "Let my people go!"? What would we be missing in our understanding of God?
- Could it be that God is working to reveal Himself through the opposition we face as well?
- What's the question Moses asks the Lord right before and right after the genealogy in 6:14-25? What insight might this repeated question give as to the genealogy's purpose?

Moses inserts this genealogy to tattle on his own self-doubt. His genealogy and that of his brother, Aaron, reveals that God not only succeeded in using them for His purposes, but made a whole line of leaders out of them. The genealogy is Moses saying, "I was wrong. God was able to use me." Again, Moses had his eyes on himself when they should have been on "I AM," on the LORD.

- When you encounter opposition, are you tempted to doubt yourself? What advice does the world give for self-doubt? What advice does Exodus, and the rest of God's word, give us about confronting self-doubt when we're doing God's work?

And David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because all the people were bitter in soul, each for his sons and daughters. But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.

1 Samuel 30:6

- When God directs you and you are opposed, do you start to focus on your self-doubt? Where should you be looking?

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

2 Corinthians 12:9

- What could help you to focus on God's grace when you're opposed rather than on yourself?

Conclusion

- Read Exodus 7:1-7.
- The Hebrew text translated in verse 1 doesn't contain the word "like" or "as," so it reads something like: "I have made you God to Pharaoh." What do you think God was trying to convey to Moses here?
- Moses doesn't represent a superman but humanity as we were supposed to be: in fellowship with God and representing Him on earth.
- What images does the New Testament use to describe us as God's representatives?

God made us His representatives on earth. We have certain expectations of how that will feel and what we will accomplish, but when God begins to work, we experience pain, opposition, and

difficulty and sometimes we give up. Could it be that, just as with Moses, God wants to reveal Himself through those things, not in spite of them? God has called us to be His representatives and we believe that He will give us an overflow of His presence so that our Valley will know that He is the Lord. But there will be opposition. You should expect it, respond with faithfulness to God and His leaders, and silence self-doubt by looking up to “I AM” rather than down on yourself.

- Pray a prayer of consecration, dedicating yourself to the Lord’s work no matter what the opposition and asking Him for courage, faith, and strength to persevere.