

**"The 10 Plagues upon Egypt"**

**Part 19**

**Exodus 7-12**

**Introduction:** Last week in our study of the plagues we backed up and we began to look at the compromises offered to Moses in the midst of the plagues. There were four offers made to Moses each of which he rejected. When we began last week, we started by looking at three points which help us to see why compromise is so tempting. In these three points we were also able to see why Satan presents the offers of compromise. I want to review these quickly before we get back to the offers.

**1. The Appeal of Compromise**

Compromise is appealing because it is a short cut to your goal. But the short cut is not without sacrifice. Satan has a way of convincing people it is better to have part of what you desire than not to have any of it. This is the smoke screen which hides the Truth. The Truth is that compromise gives you only PART NOW instead of ALL LATER. Compromise robs us of our goals. It short-changes us and convinces us to settle for something less than our goal. When this happens in the area of character and spirituality it becomes a tragedy.

**2. The Acceptableness of Compromise.**

Compromise has become a "way of life" in our society. It is basically the normal. It is often called the consensus. Because it is the "way of life" when we refuse to compromise, we are considered unreasonable and inconsiderate. This is why we get so much pushback when we take a stand against sin today. We are often looked at as someone who is just standing in the way of progress or someone who does not care about the desires and dreams of others. In some situations, compromise may be acceptable, but when it comes to RIGHT and WRONG and when it comes down to the Truth of God's Word it is NEVER acceptable.

**3. The Assault of Compromise.**

There is a major assault which takes place when we compromise. It is an assault upon obedience. Disobedience is Satan's goal for God's people. When compromise occurs with God's commands it produces partial obedience which is really another form of disobedience. You see, compromise opposes complete obedience. It is another way of saying, "God is not Lord, but I also have some say in this also". Compromise says it is fine to negotiate God's orders instead of living in full submission to them. So, compromise brings a subtle assault upon obedience to the Word of God. It advocates disobedience to God's Word.

In our last study we considered three points of compromise offered to Moses.

### I. The Place of Worship

#### Notice Exodus 8:25-27

The offer made by Pharaoh presented several problems.

1. It would be an offer which advocated partial disobedience for God had commanded that Israel was to go three days journey into the wilderness to worship.
2. It was an offer that denied separation.
3. It was an offer that would place Israel in danger.

Moses defeated this offer in two ways:

- a. He was firm in his word.
- b. He was faithful to God's Word.

The next offer of compromise was directed in a different directed.

### II. The Passion of Worship

#### Notice Exodus 8:28

Pharaoh told Moses they could go worship but they could not *GO VERY FAR*. We looked at two points here. This also was directed at the place of worship, but we considered it in another area.

Today many people want to discourage the passion of God's people. They say it is ok to be involved in the church or to worship God, but *DON'T GO TOO FAR*. They desire to restrain the passion.

We also looked at how Pharaoh's offer was to benefit him. He wanted Moses to ask God to take away the plague of flies. Last week I had shared with you an application from this: Satan's compromises are always designed to promote his program and never God's program. Compromise never helps God's work it only hinders it.

This now brings us to where we are today and the next offer.

### III. The People in Worship

#### Notice Exodus 10:8-11

Pharaoh asked Moses who would be going to worship, and Moses' reply was that everyone would be going. All the young, the old, the sons and the daughters and all the livestock. But Pharaoh objected.

#### Notice Exodus 10:10

Pharaoh told Moses he would let the adults go but not the children for it was far too dangerous for them to make the journey. I want to break this down so we can clearly see what is happening here so that we can better understand how our enemy works.

**1. The protecting of the children.**

Pharaoh wanted the children left behind because he knew if he had the children, he could control the parents. He did his best to get Moses to question the safety of the children. He was saying, "Moses, you know how dangerous it is in the wilderness for men who are experienced, and it is really no place for your children for they may suffer if you take them along."

**Application:**

I see several points here that we must consider.

**A. The enemy tries his best to control God's people with fear.**

I wonder how many people today would have listened to Pharaoh's statement of alarmism and reached the conclusion that they should not go. Many would have concluded that it is far too dangerous, so we better stay where we are and not go to worship God. I can almost hear them saying, "I can worship God where I am. I don't need to go into the wilderness where it is dangerous for my family."

If Satan can instill fear in God's people, it will do several things:

**1. Fear causes us not to walk by faith.**

Hebrews 11:6

*<sup>6</sup> **But without faith it is impossible to please him:** for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

We must be sure that in our everyday lives that we do not allow fear to control us for we are called to walk by faith. That means trusting God in every situation we face in life.

**2. Fear will paralyze the believer.**

When a believer allows fear to control them, they will become paralyzed. This means they will not walk in obedience to God's Word. The Bible will not be their compass, but fear and anxiety will control their lives.

Let me go back to our text once again.

The focus of Pharaoh was on the children and he stated it was far too dangerous for them to go into the wilderness.

We see a very similar argument set forth by many today. They say we do not want our children to experience any tough situations in life. We do not want them to have to go without anything or to have any hardships in their lives. Some of the results of this have been no discipline, no duties/chores, and never deprived. Many of the children today are "spoon fed". They are flood with everything to make life easy. This is so foolish on the part of the parents. It is the experiences of discipline, duties and being deprived that builds backbone into their lives. If you raise your children on the soft and easy road, they will not have the toughness to face the circumstances of life. It is often in the hardships of life that people come to know Jesus Christ. So, while many believe they are helping their children they are really hindering them greatly.

It is interesting to note that when Israel finally did get into the wilderness the journey was much harder on the adults than it was on the children. It was the children who made it into the promised land not the adults. The adults could not survive the grueling discipline that was needed and required so they rebelled and were not permitted to enter the land. But the children did.

There is yet another thought which we need to consider before we move on. Pharaoh desired to keep the children from the worship service which God had commanded. This is still one of Satan's attacks upon the children today. Over the past many years, the secular activities have increased greatly. There was a time when Sunday basically belonged to the church. There was also a time when Wednesday evening belonged to the church but neither of these are true anymore. Now there are sporting events that happen on Wednesday evenings and on Sundays for children. It is all a plan orchestrated by Satan to keep children away from the church where they may learn about the Lord. Many parents have bought into Satan's scheme also. They desire to have their children in everything they possibly can, but have you ever noticed that learning about God always ends up on the end of the list. Church only happens when there is nothing else going on. Parents have been led to believe their children will be missing out if they are not involved in a full schedule of secular events. What the children are really missing is an education in the Bible.

Let me just use the circumstance of our day to help you to see how important a Bible education is. When the coronavirus swept through our land sports all went away. Life changed over night and the only way to have a solid foundation in the midst of the changes taking place is to be grounded in the Bible.

**Psalm 1:1-6**

*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.*

<sup>2</sup> *But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*

<sup>3</sup> And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

<sup>4</sup> The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

<sup>5</sup> Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup> For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Our children need what Isaiah writes about:

**Isaiah 12:2**

<sup>2</sup> Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.

Only those who are walking close to the Lord will understand these words. So, what our children need in this world of change is a strong relationship with the unchanging God.

#### **IV. The Possessions for Worship**

**Notice Exodus 10:24-26**

This is the fourth and final compromise offered to Moses. It was the offer to go to worship God without taking the animals for sacrifices. This would have greatly hindered Israel's worship of God. Let us notice several points:

##### **1. The disabling of service.**

**Notice Exodus 10:24 again.**

Within Pharaoh's words we can clearly see another tactic used by Satan. He does his best to convince God's people not to give too much of their possessions in their worship. If Israel had not taken their animals, they could not have worshipped the Lord the way in which He desired.

Satan has convinced many believers to be very careful about giving their resources to the Lord. He has used fear to cause them to greatly limit their giving. I say he has used fear because Satan has whispered in the ears of all who will listen that they need to be careful because they do not know what is coming down the road. He convinces them to withhold from the Lord because they fear they may need the resources next week, next month or next year. I want you to listen to an unnamed writer:

*"When you refuse to give to God, you limit your service in a great way. No stingy, tightwad person has ever been used much by God in His service. Those who are willing to give of their possessions will be used much by God."*

Let me show you what Paul wrote to the believers at Corinth concerning giving.

### **2 Corinthians 9:6-10**

*<sup>6</sup> But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.*

*<sup>7</sup> Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.*

*<sup>8</sup> And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:*

*<sup>9</sup> (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever.*

*<sup>10</sup> Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;)*

Now, let me just state that I share this with you not because I want to see our bank account overflow, but because I do not desire for your worship to be hindered. I do not want Satan to instill fear in you and rob you of blessings.

### **2. The delight/joy in service.**

#### **Exodus 5:1**

*And afterward Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness.*

Israel was to not only worship the Lord, but they were also to hold a feast while in the wilderness. For them to hold a feast they needed animals to feast upon. The feast would be a time of joy and delight so to take away the flocks and the herds would take away their joy and delight.

#### **Application:**

When we allow the enemy to convince us to operate with a "tight fist" then we are missing the joy that comes from giving to the Lord. Those who are stingy in giving to the Lord are people who know little of the joy of the Lord.

#### **Matthew 6:19-23**

<sup>19</sup> Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

<sup>20</sup> But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

<sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

<sup>22</sup> The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.

<sup>23</sup> **But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!**

An "evil eye" speaks of a greedy heart and that produces darkness in the heart. The single eye is a generous heart and that produces light in the heart.

#### **Proverbs 28:22**

<sup>22</sup> He that hasteth to be rich hath an **evil eye**, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him.

#### **Deuteronomy 15:7-9**

<sup>7</sup> If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother:

<sup>8</sup> But thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need, in that which he wanteth.

<sup>9</sup> Beware that there be not a thought in thy wicked heart, saying, The seventh year, the year of release, is at hand; and **thine eye be evil** against thy poor brother, and thou givest him nought; and he cry unto the LORD against thee, and it be sin unto thee.

#### **Conclusion:**

If Pharaoh got his way, he knew Israel would be sure to return back to Egypt. If Israel went without their flocks and herds, they would not stay long for they would need to return to Egypt to support their lives. The lesson here is that when we are stingy with what we give to the Lord it reveals a lack of interest and many with a lack of interest do not stay committed to serving the Lord. It is not long until they return to Egypt/the world. Don't allow people or the enemy to discourage you from giving to the Lord because if they do, they have been successful in stealing away a true source of joy.