



Part 4: One Step Forward, Two Steps Back

Pastor Grant Fishbook
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So far, on the road out...

1. The people of God are in captivity
2. The people of God cry out to him and He hears them
3. God chooses a reluctant leader: Moses

What happens next...

Afterward Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival to me in the wilderness.'" Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD and I will not let Israel go." – *Exodus 5:1-2*

Pharaoh turns up the heat...

"You are no longer to supply the people with straw for making bricks; let them go and gather their own straw. But require them to make the same number of bricks as before; don't reduce the quota. They are lazy." – *Exodus 5:6-8*

A tough life lesson: The road to freedom often gets harder before it gets better.

God's people have a meltdown:

The Israelite overseers realized they were in trouble when they were told, "You are not to reduce the number of bricks required of you for each day." When they left Pharaoh, they found Moses and Aaron waiting to meet them, and they said, "May the LORD look on you and judge you! You have made us obnoxious to Pharaoh and his officials and have put a sword in their hand to kill us."

– *Exodus 5:19-21*

God's leader has a meltdown:

Moses returned to the LORD and said, "Why, Lord, why have you brought trouble on this people? Is this why you sent me? Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has brought trouble on this people, and you have not rescued your people at all." – *Exodus 5:22-23*

An Ancient Strategy for Division

1. Convince people that pursuing freedom is futile (bricks without straw)
2. Pit God's people against God's people (Hebrew foremen verses Hebrew slaves)
3. Create questions about God's plan and love (Why, Lord?)

A key truth: The Devil is using the same strategy today!

(Continues on back)

How can we defeat this strategy?

1. Refuse to be stuck in our old life of captivity
2. Stick together in unity
3. Acknowledge that God is God and we are not

Next Steps

Small Group Launch Pad: Sunday, Feb. 13, 12:45-1:45 PM in Room 215

If you're looking for a group of people to build unity with on the road out, a home small group is an ideal place to start. Come to the Small Group Launch Pad next Sunday afternoon to find out what small groups are about and get connected in a group with people who care about each other's spiritual journey.

Small Group Questions



- 1) Did you watch the Super Bowl? Did you watch more for the game or more for the commercials?
- 2) Do you have any unused exercise equipment like Grant does? What kept you from using it?
- 3) Are there any areas of your life where change seems futile? What do you need from God to hold it together?
- 4) Look at the 2nd point under An Ancient Plan for Division. Do you have an unresolved issue with a brother or sister in Christ? What are you going to do about it? Hit it head on? Let it go? Forgive?
- 5) Have someone read Exodus 6:1-8 out loud to the group. What can you learn about God's character from His declaration?
- 6) How can we pray for you tonight?