

Pharaoh's Compromise

Moses was a Hebrew child, raised by the daughter of the king of Egypt, the Pharaoh. At 80 years of age God called Moses to do a special task (You are never too old to start serving God- my grandfather was 60 years old when God called him to the Mission Field to Beirut, Lebanon 1980-84). This task was to turn his back on all the riches and fame that he was given in Egypt and to lead God's people the children of Israel out of bondage. God had promised to Abraham that his people would inherit a special land the "promised land" that is the land of Canaan.

"And I have said, I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt unto the land of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, unto a land flowing with milk and honey. And they shall hearken to thy voice: and thou shalt come, thou and the elders of Israel, unto the king of Egypt, and ye shall say unto him, The LORD God of the Hebrews hath met with us: and now let us go, we beseech thee, three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God." Ex 3:17-18

We find in Exodus chapters 8-10 that Moses went to the Pharaoh to ask the freedom of God's people and Pharaoh offered 4 compromises to God's order.

1). Exodus 8:25-27 *"Worship God if you want to... but you don't have to leave Egypt to do it"*

The modern day equivalent would be: **" Religion is okay, but don't be so narrow about it. You don't have to let religion separate you from the world"**

In the Bible, Egypt is often symbolic of the sinful world. The fact that God called the Israelites to leave Egypt and go to a different land should teach us that when we are saved we should live a different life. The scriptures tell us that when we are saved that we become a "new creature" and that all things change for us. Our wants and desires should change along with our attitude concerning the world. What saved person wants to live in the filth of the flesh? The Spirit of God dwelling in you cannot stand it and it will convict you to separate from the sinful world.

"Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, touch no unclean thing; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the LORD." Is 52:11

Too many people think that they can get saved and keep living in the same life they lived before- that's not salvation!

A person who accepts Christ does so because they recognize their sin and want to be freed from it. A person who thinks that they can stay in sin does not understand

biblical salvation which involves repentance: turning your back on the ways of the world.

"Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them." Eze 22:26

We live in a world where sacred and secular have collided and often the two cannot be distinguished- This is NOT God's way!

In Genesis 1:4 the first thing that God did was to create Light and then He separated the light from the darkness and ever since, man has been trying to combine the two!

It's like the time when Moses came down from Mt. Sinai with the 10 commandments and found the Israelites dancing naked and worshipping a golden statue of a calf (Moses was the only person to break all 10 commandments at once).

"And when Moses saw that the people were naked; (for Aaron had made them naked unto their shame among their enemies:) Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the LORD's side? let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him." Ex. 32:25-26

We as Christians are supposed to be different from the world. Black and white don't mix to be one or the other, you get gray. That is the problem with our world it's gray (Like the Laodicean church of Revelation- lukewarm)

This leads us to the 2nd compromise offered:

2). Ex. 8:28 "If you must go out of Egypt to worship, don't go far..."

Modern day equivalent: "Religion is fine, but there is no need to be fanatical about it. Stay as close to the world as you can"

**8 "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:
11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."
Eph 5:8,11**

The scripture tells us that our association is not to be involved with the works of darkness. Our fellowship is with the people and NOT THEIR WAYS!

You cannot "walk the fence" and expect for God to bless you. You must choose one side or the other!

Sin is stronger than good sense! Get as far from sin as possible.

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? 15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? 16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you," 2 Cor. 6:14-17

3). Exodus 10:⁸~~9~~-11 *"Let the men go worship, but the women and children should stay here"*

Modern equivalent: **"If you must break with the world and serve your God, then go, but don't force such a narrow lifestyle on everyone else in your family. They should choose for themselves"**

Did you ever wonder why more young people aren't in church these days. When I was growing up I knew where I was going to be on Sunday morning, Sunday night and Wednesday night... no questions asked! Some of my friends didn't have to go because their parents didn't want to force their religious beliefs on them. They wanted their children to choose what was right?! I know one thing: many of those kids went through some terrible lessons that could have been avoided if they had been told a few things.

I know that a snake will bite and it's best for Stephen to leave them alone, but I'm not going to let him find it out his own way and in his own time. I carried him to the pet store the other day and showed him a snake. At Dixie and Edward's the other night I showed him a snake in a book and he made an ugly face at it. Chances are good now that he will be more careful around one... Get the point? **Bring your children up in church and they stand a better chance!**

Prov. 22:6 **"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."**

Eph 6:4 **"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."**

The Bible puts great emphasis on teaching our children the ways of God. Deut 6 tells

us to teach our children "diligently"

Deut 6:7 "And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

The scriptures give us certain prerequisites for Deacons and Pastors. One of the qualifications for both is that they have children who are raised properly!

Pastor: "One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;" 1 Tim 3:4

Deacon: "Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well." 1 Tim 3:12

There is no room for this idea of "let them choose for themselves". Mom's & Dad's you have a responsibility to train your children in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord".

In the OT. The priesthood was passed from father to son and stayed within the family, it was an honor. Eli the high priest who helped young Samuel had 2 sons named Hophni and Phinehas who were wicked. They forced the people to give them more than the proper offerings and slept with some of the women in the church. They died for their sins, but Eli was shamed and no one from his family remained in the priesthood. That is how Samuel came to be a priest.

4). Exodus 10:24-26 "Okay, go, but the flocks and herds of animals stay here"

Modern day equivalent: "Don't let your odd religious commitments get in the way of business and prosperity"

God had instructed the people that they were to leave and offer Him a sacrifice three day's journey from Egypt and so Moses would not settle for anything less than leaving Egypt just as God had said!

Ex 10:26 "Our cattle also shall go with us; there shall not an hoof be left behind; for thereof must we take to serve the LORD our God; and we know not with what we must serve the LORD, until we come thither."

Pharaoh was worried about the economy of Egypt if the Israelites left and took all their animals (Ex 12:37 says there were 600,000 men + women and children... there probably was between 1½ - 2 million Israelites!). Moses knew what they had to do regardless of what Pharaoh had done for him as a child!

Interesting note: ever wonder where the Israelites who were slaves in Egypt got the gold, silver and gems to build the tabernacle in the wilderness? God told Moses that they would leave Egypt:

"And I will give this people favour in the sight of the Egyptians: and it shall come to pass, that, when ye go, ye shall not go empty: 22 But every woman shall borrow of her neighbour, and of her that sojourneth in her house, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: and ye shall put them upon your sons, and upon your daughters; and ye shall spoil the Egyptians." Ex 3:21-22

"And the children of Israel did according to the word of Moses; and they borrowed of the Egyptians jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: 36 And the LORD gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they lent unto them such things as they required. And they spoiled the Egyptians." Ex 12:35-36

The principle is this: when God calls you to follow Him you should follow Him immediately and not worry about physical things! God will provide your needs.

Like when Jesus called Peter, Andrew, James and John while they were fishing to follow Him. It didn't make good economic sense to quit their job and follow Jesus but the scriptures say that they immediately left their nets, their boats and their family to follow Jesus.

Pharaoh offered Moses 4 compromises which sounded good, but God wants us to trust Him and follow Him on His terms. There is no room for compromise in the Christian walk. You can bet that when the world offers you a compromise it is for their good and not yours! The world and the Devil look out for their own first. You had better follow God first because he is looking out for you!

What I haven't discussed here are the 10 plagues that Pharaoh and Egypt suffered as a result of their rebellion toward God. With each compromise Pharaoh offered to Moses, God sent a set of plagues as a judgment for their sin! (These can be studied in the Dispensational Truth notes).

The point is this: when God calls us you out of a life of sin, unto salvation you are supposed to separate yourself from the sinful past. The world and your friends will offer you compromise after compromise, but a closer look will show you that their sin is eating them up like the 10 plagues and you really aren't missing out on anything worth seeing!

For a more detailed study on Pharaoh, the plagues and Moses leading the Israelites out of Egypt, see my notes on Dispensational Truth; The Age of the Law.



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