To Make It Through Life’s Valleys April 2, 2023

*Exodus 5:20-6:9 Series: How God Shapes a Person for Impact*

God wanted his people to understand that the answer to all their problems was to be found in him. – Philip Ryken

Intro: I did what you asked. So, what happened?

1. Know that trials are part of the package
2. With God on your side, you’d think things would go smoothly

v. 21 *The LORD look on you and judge, because you have made us stink in the sight of Pharaoh and his servants, and have put a sword in their hand to kill us.*

1. Complaining to God is better than complaining about God

v. 22 *O Lord, why have you done evil to this people? Why did you ever send me?*

v. 23 *you have not delivered your people at all*

1. Satan doesn’t let go without a fight

John 16:33 *I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.*

1 Peter 4:12 *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.*

* Why do we think things will go smoothly with God on our side?
* Why do bad things happen to God’s people?
* What’s the difference between complaining to God and complaining about God?

1. Understand that knowing God is the point
2. Stop and acknowledge who God is in your circumstances

vv. 2, 6, 8 *I am the LORD*

v. 7 *you shall know that I am the LORD*

1. God may be using the trial to deepen your knowledge of Him

v. 3 *I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by my name the LORD I did not make myself known to them.*

Exodus 8:10 *Moses said, “Be it as you say, so that you may know that there is no one like the LORD our God.”*

Exodus 14:18 *And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.*

1. Often, we have to see that it’s humanly impossible before God shows us that with Him all things are possible

v. 1 *Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh; for with a strong hand he will send them out, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land.*

* Why would God answer Moses’ complaints by repeating “I am the LORD”? How is that an answer?
* How did the Israelite’s slavery and exodus deepen their understanding of who God is?
* What’s something that you’ve learned about God through a trial that you’ve faced?

1. Cling to what God has promised you
2. God has promised you redemption

v. 6 *I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment.*

1. God has promised you relationship

v. 7 *I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God*

Leviticus 26:12 *And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be my people.*

1. God has promised you rest

v. 8 *I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession.*

1 Peter 1:3-4 *he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you*

1. Many choose the slavery they know for the freedom God offers

v. 9 *Moses spoke thus to the people of Israel, but they did not listen to Moses, because of their broken spirit and harsh slavery.*

* How can looking back to Jesus’ death and your redemption help in times of trial and suffering?
* How could the promise of God’s adoption in v. 7 given courage to the Israelites when their slavery was so hard?
* What would it look like for a Christian to refuse to accept the reassurance of God’s promises in hard times?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study 1 Corinthians 15:42-49

Notes