



BUMC Weekly Bible and Sermon Study

Sermon: “A Reassuring Promise” (from the “Deliverance” sermon series)

Scripture: Exodus 6:1-11 (Israel’s deliverance assured)

Main idea: This section of Exodus, God assures the Israelites that they will be delivered from Egypt. Moses is sent back to Pharaoh with a message from God: “Let My people go!”

Key take-aways from the Scripture

- At the end of chapter 5, Moses laments to God that the Israelites are suffering even more at the hand of Pharaoh, and God has not rescued them as promised.
- Here in chapter 6, God renews His covenant with Moses, and the Israelites, that He will deliver them from bondage in Egypt. God tells Moses in v.1, “Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh: Indeed, by a mighty hand he will let them (the enslaved Israelites) out of his land.”
- God then tells Moses in vv. 2-3, “I am the Lord. I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as God Almighty, but my name ‘The Lord’ I did not make clear to them.”
 - God reminds Moses of His promises to the patriarchs from previous generations and will honor His covenant to redeem Israel from Egyptian bondage despite their discouragement.
- God says to Moses “*I am the Lord*” (vv. 2, 6, 8). This self-introduction from God refers to God as Creator, Redeemer and Savior and is also used in Isaiah 41:4; and 44:6).
- In vv. 6-8, God makes a covenant with the Israelites to deliver them from slavery, redeem them, give them their land, and be their God.
- In v. 9, the Israelites ignore this message from Moses because they were too discouraged from the cruelty of their slavery. They did not want to hear any more about God’s promises because the last time they did, their work and conditions became much worse (Exodus 5:6-12).
- In vv. 10-11, God commands Moses to return to the Pharaoh with another message. This time, God demands that Pharaoh release the Israelites from the land altogether as opposed to the three-day journey into the wilderness to celebrate a festival and worship (see Exodus 5:1).



Key take-aways from the Sermon

- This text is a word of assurance/reassurance to Moses. Life and faith can be messy, and we need assurance to get us through. We need someone to remind us of the promises of God. We need someone to reiterate the covenant of God to us.
- Our assurance in life is that God *never* forgets His own.
- After Moses encountered the burning bush, he accepted God's call to speak "truth to power." Things got worse from this point before they got better.
- Overcoming sin and oppression is a struggle...even for God. Evil does not give up without a fight. God does not just wave a magic wand for everything to be good. The pathway from captivity to promise always passes through many Gethsemans.
- Obedience to God sometimes gets you into trouble in the world. It is not always convenient and can be very risky. Think about Moses and his call to tell Pharaoh to let God's people go.
- Paul says in Ephesians 6:12: "...for our struggle is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places."
- Sometimes it feels like evil is getting the upper hand...but it is not. Sometimes things in life get worse before they get better. Think about the plight of the Israelites when things got worse for them after Moses' first encounter with Pharaoh (see Exodus 5:21-23). Lamentation: letting out our pains and frustrations to God.
- There are some things when God calls that you can't *not* do! One of the reasons Moses resisted God's call is that he felt the people would not listen to him. At first, they did not. Not because of him but because they had a broken spirit caused by cruel hardship and slavery. They needed assurance. Remember that just because deliverance is delayed does not mean it's not coming.
- God reaffirms His promise in chapter 6! As we see eventually broken spirits come to life again!
- "Trust your training/trainer": reading the Scriptures and intentionally practicing your faith. You will find obedience is its own reward and experience the assurance of Christ. God wants you to be an affirmation and assurance to the world. Trust your "training" ...and get to it!



Questions for Personal Reflection or Group Discussion

- What were your key take-aways from the sermon? How can you apply this to your everyday life?
- Reflect on a time when you struggled with unbelief and doubt during a challenging time. Why do you think we are tempted to measure God's faithfulness by our outward circumstances? What "Life Verses" do you turn to help fight unbelief during those times (think back to the previous sermon series on Life Verses)?
- How can obedience to God sometimes get you into trouble? Can you think of a time when this has happened to you?
- Reflect on a time when you resisted a call from God. What happened? Did you find this was something that you "can't not do."
- What does Rev. Dr. Chappell mean by "trust your training." (see about 48 minutes into the 8:30 service: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVXRiodTx8k&t=3168s>).



NOTES