

Sermon ~ Sunday, November 15, 2020 by Pastor, Dwight Benoit

Text: Exodus 6: 1-13

Title: "Follow The LEADER!"

Remember this childhood game? First, a *Leader* or 'head of the line' is chosen, then other children all line-up behind a *Leader*. That *Leader* then moves around and all the children have to mimic that *Leader's* actions.

Any players who fail to follow or do what that *Leader* does, are out of the game. When only one person other than that *Leader* remains, the player becomes a *Leader*, and the game begins again with all players joining the line once again.

"Follow The LEADER!"

Let me begin by saying, **The BIBLE** said 'these Days would come' ... (Matthew 24; II Timothy 3; II Peter 2—please *meditate* on these **SCRIPTURES!**) Secondly, I say, 'WAR is Declared!' BUT, **The VICTORY**, we know, is already *Won!*

When you read Exodus, Chapters 5-10, they point out perhaps 'the darkest hours' in the lives of great *Leaders*: Moses and Aaron. They were sent by **GOD** to inform Pharaoh, "Let **MY** people go!" – 7 times, Exodus 5: 1; 7: 16; 8: 1, 20; 9: 1, 13; 10: 3. (This command revealed, **GOD'S** people were in *bondage!* Question? What do you do, when in *bondage?*)

If Pharaoh did not, **JEHOVAH** would declare WAR on him, his *gods*, and would not stop attacking Egypt until **HIS people** were 'free to serve **HIM!**' Pharaoh' response was predictable: he rejected **GOD'S** command (Exodus 5: 2); this world has *no* respect for **GOD'S WORD**—it's "*vain words*" to people of this world (Exodus 5: 9). Pharaoh disdained **GOD'S Miracles** and deliberately hardened his heart, against **The LORD**—the *sinner* will either *yield* to **GOD'S WORD** or *resist* it and become hardened. BUT do know, "the same *sun* that melts ice, hardens clay!"

Unfortunately, "*the people*" looked to Pharaoh for help (Exodus 5: 15-19); 'out of fellowship with **GOD**', they *accused* Moses, their *Leader*, instead of *encouraging* him; brought Moses, their *Leader*, *grief* instead of *help*. Moses was certainly discouraged, but he did what *Leaders* ought to do—he took his problem to **The LORD**...

"Follow The LEADER!"

What do you think about your *Leadership* skills? Do you possess...

1. Inspired Motivation
2. Communication Skills
3. Positivity
4. Delegation Skills
5. Creativity
6. Trustworthiness
7. Responsibility
8. Time Management Skills
9. Influence
10. Decisiveness

If so, great, but as a *Leader*, **WHO** do you *follow*???

How did **GOD** encourage **HIS** struggling *Servant-Leader*, Moses?

1. **GOD** spoke to Moses, giving him *Great Promises*. (Exodus 6: 1-8)

No doubt, Moses *heard* **GOD** speak to him 'audibly,' and while in *pray*. (Exodus 3: 4; 33: 11; Deuteronomy 34: 10) Today, **GOD** speaks to us through **HIS Written WORD—The BIBLE!**

Four times, **HE** reminds Moses, a *Leader*, "**I AM The LORD**" (Exodus 6: 2, 6, 7—**The LORD your GOD**, 8) ... to the Patriarchs: Abraham, his son Isaac, his son Jacob, named Israel—**GOD ALMIGHTY**, the Hebrew is "**EL SHADDAI**," **The All Sufficient and All-Powerful GOD... to their descendants—the unchanging Covenant NAME—JEHOVAH—I AM, that I AM!**

One way to get to *know* **GOD** better is to pay attention to **HIS NAMES**.

The NAME denotes THE PERSON and THE CHARACTER of THE PERSON!

2. **GOD** assured Moses, a *Leader*, **HE** felt the burdens of **HIS people** and was working on their behalf! **GOD** wasn't ignorant of their (*our*) need, nor, unconcerned about their (*our*) suffering(s). **GOD** was not adding to their (*our*) problems by delaying their deliverance. Everything was working according to **GOD'S purpose** and no-thing **GOD** *purposed* would fail. Whenever we as *Leaders* feel that **The LORD** has abandoned us and don't care, we need to remember **HIS assuring WORDS**, "Casting all your care upon **HIM**, for **HE** cares for you." (1 Peter 5: 7)

3. **GOD** promised Seven-times, what **HE Will do! GOD Promised "I Will" ...**

a. "...bring you out from under the burdens..." V. 6, A Promise of *Rest*.

We all are saying, 'I have no time for *rest* or, I just can't *rest*.' **BUT GOD...**

b. "...rid you out of your bondage." V. 6, a Promise of *Rescue*. *Rid* means to pluck out of the hands of any oppressor or enemy. **GOD** promised us (*Leaders*) to *rescue*, to *free*, to give *liberty*, to us. Our souls will be *rescued* from the *bondage* of *sin*, because of **GOD'S Love; JESUS', death, burial, resurrection and Coming Again**.

c. "...redeem you with a stretched-out arm, and with great judgment." V. 6, a Promise, no matter the price. *Redeem* involves *buying something, paying a price*. Pharaoh and Egypt *paid* for the *redemption* of Israel through *giving* Israel all their wealth. (Exodus 12: 36) **CHRIST paid** for our *soul's redemption* through **HIS work on Calvary**. A Promise of **GOD'S Power**. The "*stretched out arm*" speaks of **GOD'S Power—the Plagues**. "**The Gospel of CHRIST . . . is the power of GOD** unto salvation." (Romans 1: 16) A Promise of *Punishment*. "...with great judgments." Egypt experienced much judgment for Israel to go free. **CHRIST** experienced much judgement on **The Cross** to bring salvation to you and me.

d. "...take you to **ME** for a people." V. 7, a Promise of *Reception*. Egypt (the world), despised and rejected Israel, but **GOD**, would receive them (*us*). John 14: 3, "I will . . . receive you unto **MYSELF**."

e. "...ye shall know that **I AM The LORD your GOD**." V. 7, a Promise of *Recognition*. When we are saved, we are "renewed in knowledge . . . of **HIM** that created him." (Colossians 3: 10)

f. "...bring you in unto the land, concerning which **I** did swear to give to your forefathers." V. 8, a Promise of *Relocation*. Canaan Land. In soul-salvation, the Promise of *Relocation* for Eternity is *Heaven* instead of *Hell*.

g. "...give it you for a heritage." V. 8, a Promise of *Riches*. An inheritance or "heritage" speaks of possessions, of *riches*. Soul-salvation also brings the saved *sinner, now a saint*, into a great inheritance. "Heirs of **GOD**, and joint heirs with **CHRIST**." (Romans 8: 17)

4. **GOD** commanded Moses, a *Leader*, to speak to Pharaoh *again*. (Exodus 6: 9-13)

When like Moses we reach the depth of discouragement, when others won't listen to you; when others give up and you feel like giving up, do know **GOD** will finish what **HE** began! Moses was still **GOD'S** *Servant-Leader* and **GOD** commissioned him to return to the palace and confront Pharaoh *again*. YES, in times of despair, its best to ignore our feelings and simply do what **GOD** tells us to do, leaving the consequences with **HIM!**

"Follow The LEADER!"

What shall I do? What steps should I take? What move should I make?
Oh **LORD**, what shall I do?

I'm going to wait, for an answer from **YOU**. I have *nothing* to lose.
Oh **LORD**, I'm going to wait.

I know **YOU'LL** come through, with a blessing for all.
Please **LORD** make our souls free. Oh **LORD**, I know **YOU'LL** come through.

I can't live without **YOUR** help! I'm weak all by myself!
LORD please give me the strength I need, so I can possess Eternal Peace!
No **ONE** else can calm my fears. **GOD** alone can wipe away my tears.
Glory to **The Mighty KING!** In **JESUS CHRIST**, I have everything!

Oh there's no **ONE** like **JESUS! WHO** can heal broke hearts,
and put them back together again.

What shall I do? What steps should I take? What move should I make?
Oh **LORD**, what shall I do?

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