

Message Notes

A very bad start

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Introduction – *There’s a tank behind me!*

Today’s Message:
A Bad Start?
Exodus 5:1-21

The audience with Pharaoh – Exodus 5:1
Let my people go

The hard heart speaks – Exodus 5:2
Who do you think you are?

I will not obey you!

They are NOT your people!

Who Hardens Pharaoh’s heart?
God Directly doing it – Exodus 7:3
Pharaoh’s pride – Exodus 7:13
God Indirectly doing it – Exodus 8:15

The request is repeated – Exodus 5:3

The hard heart repeats – Exodus 5:4-5

Now your just being pig-headed – Exodus 5:6-9

The “Bricks w/o Straw” mandate enforced – Exodus 5:10-14

“Hey! This isn’t our fault!” – Exodus 5:15-18

“Moses, you’re a huge failure!” – Exodus 5:19-22

Gospel Implication – **Hard Heartedness**

Psalms 95:6-9
Proverbs 28:14
Ezekiel 36:26-27
Hebrews 3:12-13

My Top Seven Ways of Developing a Hard Heart

1. *My sin*
2. *Other’s sin*
3. *A critical spirit*
4. *Defensiveness/Unresolved Anger*
5. *Isolation*
6. *Entitlement*
7. *Pride*

How to not harden your heart
Philippians 2:5-16

Gospel Application – *Do you have glad submission of your heart?*

Exodus 5:1-21

¹Afterward 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.’”

²Pharaoh 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.”

³Then they said, “The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Now let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God, or he may strike us with plagues or with the sword.”

⁴But the king of Egypt said, “Moses and Aaron, why are you taking the people away from their labor? Get back to your work!” ⁵Then Pharaoh said, “Look, the people of the land are now numerous, and you are stopping them from working.”

⁶That same day Pharaoh gave this order to the slave drivers and overseers in charge of the people: ⁷“You are no longer to supply the people with straw for making bricks; let them go and gather their own straw. ⁸But require them to make the same number of bricks as before; don’t reduce the quota. They are lazy; that is why they are crying out, ‘Let us go and sacrifice to our God.’ ⁹Make the work harder for the people so that they keep working and pay no attention to lies.”

¹⁰Then the slave drivers and the overseers went out and said to the people, “This is what Pharaoh says: ‘I will not give you any more straw. ¹¹Go and get your own straw wherever you can find it, but your work will not be reduced at all.’” ¹²So the people scattered all over Egypt to gather stubble to use for straw. ¹³The slave drivers kept pressing them, saying, “Complete the work required of you for each day, just as when you had straw.” ¹⁴And Pharaoh’s slave drivers beat the Israelite overseers they had appointed, demanding, “Why haven’t you met your quota of bricks yesterday or today, as before?”

¹⁵Then the Israelite overseers went and appealed to Pharaoh: “Why have you treated your servants this way?”

¹⁶Your servants are given no straw, yet we are told, ‘Make bricks!’ Your servants are being beaten, but the fault is with your own people.”

¹⁷Pharaoh said, “Lazy, that’s what you are—lazy! That is why you keep saying, ‘Let us go and sacrifice to the LORD.’ ¹⁸Now get to work. You will not be given any straw, yet you must produce your full quota of bricks.”

¹⁹The 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.” ²⁰When they left Pharaoh, they found Moses and Aaron waiting to meet them, ²¹and 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.”

The page is framed by a wide, ornate border of floral and foliate motifs. The border features intricate scrollwork in shades of blue, orange, and green, set against a light, patterned background. The central text is contained within a simple gold border.

The Gospel
According to
St. Moses
a study of exodus





Today's Message:

A Very Bad Start

Exodus 5:1-21

The audience with Pharaoh

Exodus 5:1

¹Afterward 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.’ ”

The hard heart speaks

Exodus 5:2

²Pharaoh 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.”

**UNSTOPPABLE FORCE MEETING
AN IMMOVABLE OBJECT?**

CHUCK NORRIS CLAPPING.

The hard heart speaks
Who do you think you are?

Exodus 5:2

²Pharaoh 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.”

The hard heart speaks

I will NOT obey you!!

Exodus 5:2

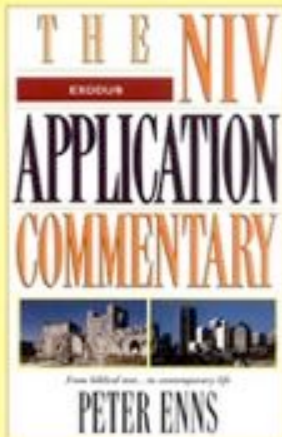
²Pharaoh said, “Who is the LORD, that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD and I will not let Israel go.”

The hard heart speaks
And, they are NOT your people!

Exodus 5:2

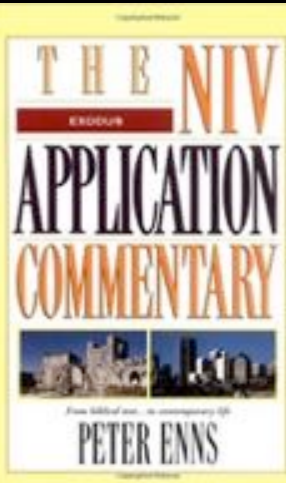
²Pharaoh said, “Who is the LORD, that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD and I will not let Israel go.”

Perhaps nowhere is Pharaoh's hardness of heart demonstrated more clearly than in the first words he utters in the Exodus narrative: "Who is the LORD?" In time, of course, Pharaoh will have this question answered for him more pointedly than he ever imagined, and as such, Pharaoh's question foreshadows the irony of Israel's escape from his grasp. Moreover, verse 2 gives us a further glimpse into the true conflict that drives the subsequent chapters. As we saw in chapter 1, the true battle in Exodus is not between the Israelites and Pharaoh, nor even between Moses and Pharaoh. Rather, it is between the God of Israel and Pharaoh... What, then, are we to make of Pharaoh's question to Moses in 5:2? Is this an honest question? Should we expect Pharaoh to have known who Yahweh is?



Pharaoh's question is not simply a request for more information. Again, one of the points of this narrative is to demonstrate Pharaoh's hardness of heart. Pharaoh does not keep the Israelites under lock and key because he doesn't know who Yahweh is, but because he does not *know* Yahweh, meaning he does not accord him any respect. At the very least, he should recognize as a matter of diplomacy the God of these slave people, just as he recognizes the many gods of the Egyptian pantheon and the gods of other nations around him. Pharaoh's response is disrespectful and sarcastic. He is, with disastrous consequences, positioning himself to do battle with this so-called "God of Israel." Pharaoh here counterattacks: Yahweh's messengers are not even given a hearing.

~ Peter Enns, *Exodus*, The NIV Application Commentary
(Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2000), 153-154.



The background of the image is a relief carving from an ancient Egyptian temple. On the left, a pharaoh is depicted in profile, facing right. He has a shaved head with a uraeus (cobra) on top, and a long, thin beard. He is wearing a broad collar (wesekh) and a long, pleated kilt. To his right, there are several standing figures, likely deities or goddesses, each holding a lotus flower. They are also wearing long, pleated dresses. The entire scene is carved into a light-colored stone surface.

**Who Is Responsible for
Pharoah's Hard Heart?**

Who hardened Pharaoh's Heart?

Who hardened Pharaoh's Heart? *God Directly*

Exodus 7:3-4

³But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in Egypt, ⁴he will not listen to you. Then I will lay my hand on Egypt and with mighty acts of judgment I will bring out my divisions, my people the Israelites.

Who hardened Pharaoh's Heart? *God Indirectly*

Exodus 7:13-14

¹³Yet Pharaoh's heart became hard and he would not listen to them, just as the LORD had said.

Who hardened Pharaoh's Heart? *God Indirectly*

Exodus 7:13-14

¹³Yet Pharaoh's heart became hard and he would not listen to them, just as the LORD had said.

¹⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, "Pharaoh's heart is unyielding; he refuses to let the people go.

Who hardened Pharaoh's Heart? *Pharaoh Directly*

Exodus 8:15

¹⁵But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said.

The request is repeated

Exodus 5:3

³Then they said, “The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Now let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God, or he may strike us with plagues or with the sword.”

The hard heart repeats

Exodus 5:4-5

⁴But the king of Egypt said, “Moses and Aaron, why are you taking the people away from their labor? Get back to your work!”

⁵Then Pharaoh said, “Look, the people of the land are now numerous, and you are stopping them from working.”

Now you're just being pig-headed

Exodus 5:6-9

⁶That same day Pharaoh gave this order to the slave drivers and overseers in charge of the people: ⁷“You are no longer to supply the people with straw for making bricks; let them go and gather their own straw. ⁸But require them to make the same number of bricks as before; don't reduce the quota. They are lazy; that is why they are crying out, ‘Let us go and sacrifice to our God.’ ⁹Make the work harder for the people so that they keep working and pay no attention to lies.”

Straw is preserved plant stalks from the more rigid long-stalk grains and vegetables. Straw comes from those plants that are harvested but whose stalks are inedible to humans and/or animals. Stubble is the very short remaining stalks of plants after harvesting: the bit between the root and where the reaping scythe or sickle cut the plant. It was only a relatively poor substitute for straw, making the process of producing suitable bricks much harder, but it also was much harder to gather from harvested fields even when the season is right (requiring careful, tedious hand pulling and cutting) as compared to the purposely preserved (and usually bundled) straw and was almost hopelessly difficult to gather in the off season...



The fact that the Israelites under the new rules simply could not meet their brick quotas is not surprising: Pharaoh had made the task virtually impossible. When the foremen, even under the penalty of being beaten, could not get the people to produce any more bricks (vv. 13–14), the situation was obviously intolerable. It is not surprising that an anguished appeal to Pharaoh for relief followed (vv. 15–16), even though such an appeal was essentially an act of desperation, presumably having little chance of success.



~ Douglas K. Stuart, *Exodus*, vol. 2, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2006), 165.

The “Bricks w/o Straw” mandate enforced

Exodus 5:10-14

¹⁰Then the slave drivers and the overseers went out and said to the people, “This is what Pharaoh says: ‘I will not give you any more straw. ¹¹Go and get your own straw wherever you can find it, but your work will not be reduced at all.’ ” ¹²So the people scattered all over Egypt to gather stubble to use for straw. ¹³The slave drivers kept pressing them, saying, “Complete the work required of you for each day, just as when you had straw.” ¹⁴And Pharaoh’s slave drivers beat the Israelite overseers they had appointed, demanding, “Why haven’t you met your quota of bricks yesterday or today, as before?”

To discourage the Israelites from listening to such troublemakers, Pharaoh decides to make their lives even harder than they have been (see 1:8–14). He gives orders to that effect to his *slave drivers and foremen* (5:6). These people seem to have been Israelites who were expected to maintain order and discipline among their fellow slaves (5:14). The oppression is evident from the imperatives used: *impose a quota, do not reduce any of it, let the labour be heavier, let them work at it* (5:7–9 NASB) while the people were *pressed and beaten* (5:13–14, NASB). We are reminded of the tragic Ngambaye proverb from Chad: ‘Even if a slave has nothing to carry, he must be made to carry a burden because he is a slave’.



~ Tokunboh Adeyemo, *Africa Bible Commentary* (Nairobi, Kenya; Grand Rapids, MI: WordAlive Publishers; Zondervan, 2006), 94.

“Hey! This isn’t our fault!”

Exodus 5:15-18

¹⁵Then the Israelite overseers went and appealed to Pharaoh:

“Why have you treated your servants this way? ¹⁶Your servants are given no straw, yet we are told, ‘Make bricks!’ Your servants are being beaten, but the fault is with your own people.”

¹⁷Pharaoh said, “Lazy, that’s what you are — lazy! That is why you keep saying, ‘Let us go and sacrifice to the LORD.’ ¹⁸Now get to work. You will not be given any straw, yet you must produce your full quota of bricks.”

“Moses, you are a huge failure!”

Exodus 5:19-21

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**SPILER
ALERT!**

“What’s going on, God?!?!?!”

Exodus 5:22-6:1

²²Moses returned to the LORD and said, “Why, Lord, why have you brought trouble on this people? Is this why you sent me?

²³Ever 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.”

“What’s going on, God?!?!?!”

Exodus 5:22-6:1

²²Moses returned to the LORD and said, “Why, Lord, why have you brought trouble on this people? Is this why you sent me?

²³Ever 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.”

¹Then the LORD said to Moses, “Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh: Because of my mighty hand he will let them go; because of my mighty hand he will drive them out of his country.”

Gospel Implication



*Breaking through a
hardened*

HEART

Psalm 95:6-9

⁶Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; ⁷for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care. Today, if only you would hear his voice, ⁸“Do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah, as you did that day at Massah in the wilderness, ⁹where your ancestors tested me; they tried me, though they had seen what I did.”

[referring to Exodus 17]

Proverbs 28:14

Blessed is the one who always trembles before God,
but whoever hardens their heart falls into trouble.

Ezekiel 36:26-27

²⁶I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

²⁷And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

Hebrews 3:12-13

¹²See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. ¹³But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.

My Top Seven Ways of Developing a Hard Heart

My Top Seven Ways of Developing a Hard Heart

My sin

My Top Seven Ways of Developing a Hard Heart

My sin
Other's sin

My Top Seven Ways of Developing a Hard Heart

My sin

Other's sin

A critical spirit

My Top Seven Ways of Developing a Hard Heart

My sin

Other's sin

A critical spirit

Defensiveness/ Unresolved Anger

My Top Seven Ways of Developing a Hard Heart

My sin

Other's sin

A critical spirit

Defensiveness/ Unresolved Anger

Isolation

My Top Seven Ways of Developing a Hard Heart

My sin

Other's sin

A critical spirit

Defensiveness/ Unresolved Anger

Isolation

Entitlement

My Top Seven Ways of Developing a Hard Heart

My sin

Other's sin

A critical spirit

Defensiveness/ Unresolved Anger

Isolation

Entitlement

Pride

The same sun which melts wax hardens clay; and the same gospel which melts some persons to repentance hardens others in their sins.

CHARLES SPURGEON



How to NOT Harden Your Heart

Philippians 2:5-16

⁵In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:
⁶Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! ⁹Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹²Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. ¹⁴Do everything without grumbling or arguing, ¹⁵so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.”

Philippians 2:5-16

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⁶Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross! ⁹Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹²Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence – continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. ¹⁴Do everything without grumbling or arguing, ¹⁵so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.”

There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, "Thy will be done," and those to whom God says, in the end, "Thy will be done." All that are in Hell, choose it. Without that self-choice there could be no Hell. No soul that seriously and constantly desires joy will ever miss it. Those who seek find. Those who knock it is opened.



— C.S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce*

Gospel Application:

Gospel Application:

*Is your heart gladly submitting to
Jesus Christ?*