

Series: "Who is the LORD that I should obey Him?"
A Primer on the Person of God from the book of Exodus

Sermon: Who is the Lord that I Should Obey Him?
Exodus 5:1 - 6:8

I. Understanding through Revelation

A. General and Special Revelation

1. General Revelation
 - a. **Romans 1:18-20 (ESV)** ¹⁸ *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹ For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.*
 - b. God's invisible qualities can be deduced from the evidence He provides in creation
 - (1) Eternal power
 - (2) Divine nature
 - c. Sufficient revelation to nurture faith
2. Special Revelation
 - a. Personal and Relational Qualities must be specially revealed through autobiographical self-expression
 - b. **God must personally reveal His true self to human understanding if He is to be known and loved on a personal level.**

II. Exodus: Two modes of Divine Revelation

A. Know God through the experiences He gives His people (3 Examples)

1. Sovereignty and Suffering: God assured their life but not their quality of life
 - a. He prepared Joseph in Egypt to preserve Jacob's family (and the promise He made to Abraham)
 - b. He did not prevent Pharaoh in Egypt from enslaving and abusing the people of the promise
 - (1) For 430 years Israel languished in forced servitude, in slavery, crying out to God for relief
 - (a) **Exodus 12:40 (ESV)** ⁴⁰ *The time that the people of Israel lived in Egypt was 430 years.*
 - (2) For 11 generations God allowed the people of promise to endure under the curse without relief
 - (a) **Genesis 3:17-19 (ESV)** ¹⁷ *And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I*

commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

- (b) God's people lived and died not seeing for themselves the glory of His grace until many came to disbelieve His intentions; they did not even know His name.
- c. Do you ever feel "hidden," as if you know that God is there but you are not sure He knows where you are?
 - (1) **From the experience of God's people recorded in Exodus we learn that sometimes God hides those He loves in their circumstances in order to more fully reveal the majesty of His glory to them and through them.**
 - (2) Examples
 - (a) Israel seems hidden in Egypt
 - (b) Moses
 - i) Hidden in the reeds as a baby
 - ii) Hidden in the rock as a seeker
 - (c) Jesus
 - i) The eternal Son of God hidden in human form
 - ii) The Beloved hidden from view on the cross
 - (d) Christian
 - i) 1 Peter 5:6-7 (ESV) *Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.*
 - ii) "Under the mighty hand of God" can only be a position of "hidden"
 - (3) **Every time God hides one He loves in their circumstances, it is always to more fully reveal the majesty of His glory to and through them.**
 - (a) The claims of the prosperity gospel that God ordains only health, wealth, and happiness simply cannot be supported either from God's word or the history of His people.
 - (b) The work and plan of God is always to reveal Himself, His glory to and through His people

whether through their suffering or through their deliverance.

2. Power and Presence: When God acts He does so with undeniable authority and unassailable power on behalf of His people for the sake of His glory.
 - a. Examples
 - (1) The ten plagues on Egypt
 - (2) The crossing of the Red Sea
 - (3) The provision of manna, quail, and water from the rock
 - b. We cannot assume God's silence means God is weak, indifferent, or absent!
 - (1) God will not be mocked
 - (a) **Galatians 6:7 (ESV)** *7Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.*
 - (b) Pharaoh sowed scorn and derision and he reaped
 - (2) God's silence is more often an expression of God's patience allowing people the opportunity to repent and align themselves through faith with Him.
 - (a) **Romans 2:4 (ESV)** *4Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?*
 - (b) **Romans 9:22–24 (ESV)** *22What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, 23in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory— 24even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?*
 - c. Many people today take God's silence as a testimony to His absence, but God is not absent and when He acts on behalf of His people for the sake of His glory He will do so with undeniable authority and unassailable power.

T.S. Let's consider a third example of how God reveals Himself in Exodus through the experience He give His people.

3. Relationship and Priority: God invites people into covenant relationship with Him but he does not invite us into a peer or replacement relationship with him!
 - a. Examples
 - (1) Mt Sinai: don't rush the mountain, this is not a circus
 - (2) Golden calf/serpent: don't presume to replace
 - (3) Moses' anger: don't think of yourself as a peer
 - b. Jesus took on human form and called us friends but that only means we are loved, not that we are divine

T.S. The narrative reveals God through His actions but it also reveals God through specific divine assertions, when God speaks clearly about Himself to His people.

B. Know God through the direct communication He speaks to His people

1. Exodus: Occasion when God speaks of Himself directly to His people
2. **More than merely learning the course of events in Israelite history, we want to know the God Who accomplished the Exodus specifically so that the people of the world and the people of the Promise would know Him as He intends and deserves to be known and loved.**

- a. God's direct, verbal revelation of Himself in Exodus
 - (1) Exodus 5:1-6:8 - God reveals Himself and His plan for Israel
 - (2) Exodus 3:1-15 - God reveals His name and His plan for Moses
 - (3) Exodus 12:12 - God reveals His sovereignty over life and death
 - (4) Exodus 3:15, 19:12, 28:43 - God reveals the uniqueness of His majesty
 - (5) Exodus 34:6-7 - God reveals the depth of His heart and the basics of His nature
- b. God's direct revelation of Himself to the world today in Jesus Christ
 - (1) **Hebrews 1:1-3 (ESV) ¹ Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,**
 - (2) Jesus:
 - (a) **John 1:18 (ESV) ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.**
 - (b) **John 8:19 (ESV) ¹⁹ They said to him therefore, "Where is your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also."**
 - (c) **John 10:30 (ESV) ³⁰ I and the Father are one."**
 - (d) **John 14:7 (ESV) ⁷ If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."**
 - (3) **What we see of God in the written narrative of the Exodus we will see with our own eyes in the Word Incarnate, Jesus Christ**

T.S. Why? Why take the time and make the effort to work through Exodus?

III. God's Personal Priority for You: Know Him!

A. The Challenge Question (Ex. 5:2): "Who is the LORD that I should obey Him?"

1. Nature of challenge questions
2. Why pursue an answer to a question posed by a big loser?
 - a. Because it is a question we all ask at one time or another both before we are saved and after we are saved.
 - b. Because **God's priority for His people is that they know Him!**

B. Knowing God is God's personal priority for you!

1. In Exodus: "that _____ may know that I am the LORD."
 - a. Pharaoh: I do not know the LORD
 - b. God: (15 out of 37 instances of "know")
 - (1) Egypt: Exodus 7:5 (ESV) *The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring out the people of Israel from among them.*"
 - (2) Israel: Exodus 16:12 (ESV) *"I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'"*
 - (3) **The Exodus narrative reveals God's priority both for His people and for the people of the world: to know Him and honor Him for Who He is!**
2. From Jesus:
 - a. John 17:1-4 (ESV) ¹ *When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.*
 - b. Knowing God
 - (1) fulfills God's purpose for your personal existence
 - (2) furthers God's purpose for all creation (Hab 2:14)

C. Why make the effort to Know God as He Reveals Himself?

1. Knowing God will change the way you love (Mat 5:44-47)
2. Knowing God will change the way you pray (Mat 6:7)
3. Knowing God will change the way you react (Mat 6:25)
4. Knowing God will change the way you live (Mat 20:25-28)