



## Worship

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7/7/13

**Ex 5:1-3** And afterward Moses and Aaron came and said to Pharaoh, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Let My people go that they may celebrate a feast to Me in the wilderness.'" **2** But Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, and besides, I will not let Israel go." **3** Then they said, "The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Please, let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God, otherwise He will fall upon us with pestilence or with the sword."

- Moses & Aaron approached Pharaoh with respect & deference.
- Their request was in terms of their accountability to God; they appealed to the good nature of the Egyptian leader.
- Their aim was to bring the people into a place where they could worship
- We must worship together, there is power in a unified voice of worship
- We are to worship in our prayer closet, but we are to be together in worship that we may glorify God fully – with a shared voice.

- When we worship we serve God. If we are enslaved, we are serving something other than God. Therefore we can't worship. God wanted his people to be released from their slavery that they might serve God and worship Him.
- We are freed from the bondage of slavery because we are no longer in bondage to the service of another god.

## **I. Enslaved; vs. 1**

- When we are released from bondage, we are free to worship.
- What Christ has done with us has made it possible for us to approach God and do so with celebration.
- Worship is distinguished by the joy of celebration

### **A. Physically Restricted**

- a. The Israelites had "become" slaves – in their thinking, orientation, motivation
- b. Even after they left Egypt, Egypt still influenced them

### **B. Spiritually Restrained**

- a. Even before the signs had occurred, Moses showed great signs to the Israelites to demonstrate that He was with them.
- b. When the culture of slavery oppresses us, the condition of thought defines how we think & respond
  - i. The Israelites could only reference the immediate pain; they did not have a mindset of how God's promise & word could carry them
  - ii. The slavery they had lived in for generations had enslaved their thinking, they could not stand apart from their circumstances and trust God
  - iii. Service & worship are synonymous: what you serve is what you are joined to.

## **II. Emancipated To...;vs. 1-3**

### **A. Celebrate A Feast; vs. 1**

- a. Moses intended to lead the people into freedom, to release from bondage that worship could occur
- b. "Come out from among them..." Paul wrote to the Corinthians. Paul told them that they must come all the way out of the world –
- c. Do not fraternize with the world and try to be a believer with God. Christ died to set us free now, to bring liberty to walk with him.
- d. Moses wanted to move the people 3 days distance from the environment of Egypt so that they could celebrate.

### **B. Sacrifice; vs. 3**

- a. You can't worship without sacrifice
- b. We are to offer ourselves as "living sacrifices" that we might live right
- c. The Bible shows us how to live right in every area. As we give ourselves to God, our souls are transformed and we learn to live right.
- d. The gospel should be "autobiographical" – it ought to be ours, worked into our lives so that others can see that "living right works".
- e. Worship well by living right every day; come out from the world and be separate – so that you can celebrate. It's about more than "sobriety", the Christian life is to be celebrated.
- f. What are we offering to God in response to all that He has done?