

Subject: *Resisting Satan's Compromises*

Scripture: *Exodus 8:20-32*

Exodus tells us how God delivered His people Israel after hundreds of years of bondage. The main theme is redemption or God setting His people free so they could serve Him. Exodus is rich in pictures and symbols. Egypt is a picture of the world with all of its power and pleasures. Israel is a picture of all who are in bondage to Satan and the world. Pharaoh is a picture of Satan because he is a deceiver and the one who keeps people in bondage. Some think that Pharaoh represents a pastor because he won't let his people go.

We see Pharaoh's strength. He held Israel captive for over 400 years. We see Pharaoh's stubbornness. He hardened his heart. ***Proverbs 29:1*** *He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.* We see Pharaoh's stupidity. In chapters 5-10, Moses approaches Pharaoh seven times and says, "Let my people go!" But Pharaoh says, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice?"

God gave a command through Moses in verse 20, "Let my people go, that they may serve me." Satan had a strategy to frustrate God's plan, but Moses and the people would not be defeated. God reveals the devil's strategy and how to overcome it.

SATAN WANTS YOU TO COMPROMISE ON SALVATION

He offered Moses and the people subtle compromises and the first one was on salvation.

Exodus 8:25 *And Pharaoh called for Moses and for Aaron, and said, Go ye, sacrifice to your God in the land.*

Pharaoh would allow the Jews to be religious, only remain in Egypt and not leave their bondage and service to him. Pharaoh says, "All right, worship God, sing your songs, pray your prayers, just don't leave Egypt." This is what God had said to Moses, ***Exodus 3:18*** *And they shall hearken to thy voice: and thou shalt come, thou and the elders of Israel, unto the king of Egypt, and ye shall say unto him, The LORD God of the Hebrews hath met with us: and now let us go, we beseech thee, three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.* Moses would not compromise. ***Exodus 8:26-27*** ²⁶ *And Moses said, It is not meet so to do; for we shall sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians to the LORD our God: lo, shall we sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians before their eyes, and will they not stone us?* ²⁷ *We will go three days' journey into the wilderness, and sacrifice to the LORD our God, as he shall command us.* Moses said, "We will do what God requires of us, nothing else and nothing less."

The devil says, "Don't make a clean break with the world. Get religious. That's fine." The devil doesn't mind religion. He doesn't mind if you go to hell from the pew or the gutter. Remember, it was a religious crowd that killed Jesus.

SATAN WANTS YOU TO COMPROMISE ON SANCTIFICATION

Exodus 8:28 *And Pharaoh said, I will let you go, that ye may sacrifice to the LORD your God in the wilderness; only ye shall not go very far away: intreat for me.*

Pharaoh says, "Alright, go ahead and leave Egypt and worship, but don't go very far." He was willing to lengthen the chain, but it was still a chain.

If the devil can't convince you to get religious without being set free, he will try to keep you as close to your old life as possible. Go ahead and be a Christian, but don't let it ruin your life. Don't cut ties with your old friends and habits. Satan says, "Well if you are going to trust Jesus, don't go too far, don't go to extremes, don't be a fanatic. Just stay on the borderline." Satan wants you to be a borderline believer.

Satan wants the church to be worldly and the world to be churchy. But God wants us to be different.

Exodus 11:7... *the Lord doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.*

Billy Sunday said, "You often hear the expression "a worldly Christian." You might as well talk of a "heavenly devil."

Satan wants you to believe it's all right to be a Christian, just don't be a radical. The word "radical" is a good word. We hear a lot about "radical Islam" don't we? But we don't hear much about radical Christianity. The word "radical" has nothing to do with fighting. It means from the root or getting back to the root of something.

When God saves us He wants us to be holy unto Him. He wants us to come apart and be separated. He leaves us in the world, but wants us to be apart from the world.

John 17:15-16 ¹⁵ *I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.* ¹⁶ *They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.*

SATAN WANTS YOU TO COMPROMISE ON STRONG FAMILIES

Exodus 10:8-11 ⁸ *And Moses and Aaron were brought again unto Pharaoh: and he said unto them, Go, serve the LORD your God: but who are they that shall go?* ⁹ *And Moses said, We will go with our young and with our old, with our sons and with our daughters, with our flocks and with our herds will we go; for we must hold a feast unto the LORD.* ¹⁰ *And he said unto them, Let the LORD be so with you, as I will let you go, and your little ones: look to it; for evil is before you.* ¹¹ *Not so: go now ye that are men, and serve the LORD; for that ye did desire. And they were driven out from Pharaoh's presence.*

This time Pharaoh seems like he is getting softer. He asks, "Who is going with you to worship God?" Moses said, "We're going together as families. Husbands, wives, and children are all going." Pharaoh said, "Not so fast." He knew that as long as the women and children stayed behind, the men wouldn't go far and their families would stay in Egypt.

Satan knows that if he can keep families divided, he can disrupt everything. He knows the secret to keeping believers weak is to keep families divided. God wants families to be strong and stand together. He wants whole families to be saved and to serve the Lord together.

How would Noah have felt with part of his family outside the ark? God was pleased with Abraham, *For I know him, that he will command his children, and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord.* God was pleased when Joshua said, *As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.* We need more women like Catherine Booth, wife of the founder of the Salvation Army, who cried out in prayer, "O Lord, I will not stand before you without all my children."

What a difference it would make if every Christian would say, “I’m coming out of Egypt. I’m coming all the way out, and I’m bringing my loved ones with me!” The only possessions we can take with us to heaven are our children.

SATAN WANTS YOU TO COMPROMISE ON STEWARDSHIP

***Exodus 10:24-27** ²⁴ And Pharaoh called unto Moses, and said, Go ye, serve the LORD; only let your flocks and your herds be stayed: let your little ones also go with you. ²⁵ And Moses said, Thou must give us also sacrifices and burnt offerings, that we may sacrifice unto the LORD our God. ²⁶ Our cattle also shall go with us; there shall not an hoof be left behind; for thereof must we take to serve the LORD our God; and we know not with what we must serve the LORD, until we come thither. ²⁷ But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let them go.*

This time Pharaoh said, “I’ve had it with you people. Go ahead and take your children with you, but leave your flocks and herds here.” Moses said, “Oh no, we will need our flocks and our herds to serve the Lord. We don’t know what we need until we get there.”

Pharaoh first tried to keep them in the land of Egypt. Then he tried to keep them near Egypt. Then he tried to keep part of the families in Egypt. Finally, he tried to keep their resources in Egypt.

Moses said, “We’re going out. And all of us are going. Our men, our women, our children, our flocks, our herds, everything we have is going with us. We’re not leaving anything here in Egypt—not a hide, not a hair, not a hoof is going to be left behind.

When a person belongs to God, everything he has belong to God, too. He is the owner and we are the manager or the steward. We place all the resources we have and say, “If the Lord wants it, He can have it.”

Satan is very clever to keep people tied to this world with their resources—their time and money. He knows as long as he has control of our time and money, he really has us.

The devil wants us to compromise because that allows him to stay in control. He wants control of your soul. If he can’t have that, he wants control of your thoughts and habits. If he can’t have that, he wants control of your loved ones. And if he can’t have that, he wants to have control of your money and possessions because he knows where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

There is only sure way to defeat Satan’s tactics is to be committed to the Lord and His will. Jesus put it like this: “No man can serve two masters.”