

Fighting Pharaoh

Exodus 7:1-13

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September 18, 2016



¹ Then the Lord said to Moses, “See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron will be your prophet. ² You are to say everything I command you, and your brother Aaron is to tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites go out of his country. ³ But I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in Egypt: ⁴ he 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. ⁵ And the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring the Israelites out of it.”

⁶ Moses and Aaron did just as the Lord commanded them. ⁷ Moses was eighty years old and Aaron eighty-three when they spoke to Pharaoh.

⁸ The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, ⁹ “When Pharaoh says to you, ‘Perform a miracle,’ then say to Aaron, ‘Take your staff and throw it down before Pharaoh,’ and it will become a snake.”

¹⁰ So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did just as the Lord commanded. Aaron threw his staff down in front of Pharaoh and his officials, and it became a snake. ¹¹ Pharaoh then summoned wise men and sorcerers, and the Egyptian magicians also did the same things by their secret arts: ¹² Each one threw down his staff and it became a snake. But Aaron’s staff swallowed up their staffs. ¹³ Yet Pharaoh’s heart became hard and he would not listen to them, just as the Lord had said.

sermon notes

THE MAIN IDEA

The Christian journey is a _____ / _____
_____, but the good news far outweighs the bad.

Bad News: Life is a _____.

1. Our _____ feel too hard for us.
2. Our _____ feel too big for us.
3. Our _____ feel too confusing for us.

Good News: Our God _____ for Us.

1. We have God's _____ in the present tense.
2. We have God's _____ in the future tense.

BOTTOM LINE

When the world _____ us, God fights for us.

my next step is to

- Seek the Lord's strength by receiving Christ as Savior.
- Pray: "I will trust Christ in the midst of my current scary circumstances."
- I will let my Grow Group know of ways they can pray for me in the present difficulties of my life.
- I will look for a way to encourage someone to rely on God's strength this week.

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BUILD

- What are one or two things from Pastor Larry's sermon on Sunday that encouraged you or challenged you?
- One of the points that Larry made is that life often feels like a battle. What's your favorite war movie? Why?
- If you don't like war movies, what's your favorite "chick flick?" After all, as you 80's music lovers out there know, Pat Benatar sang, "Love is a Battlefield," so sappy movies count too!
- In the sermon, Larry talked about Moses feeling like his assignment was too hard, his enemies too big, and his circumstances too confusing. Most of us haven't been asked to do something as hard and dangerous as Moses did, but all of us sometimes feel like we're facing things that are too hard, too big, or too confusing. Share about a time when you have felt that way. Double bonus points for sharing about an experience where you're feeling that way right now.

DIG

On Sunday, Pastor Larry mentioned that the Christian journey is a bad news/good news affair. In your own words, what was the bad news? What was the good news? With that in mind, read 2 Corinthians 1:8-11.

- In this passage, Paul describes some pretty tough stuff he's been going through. How does this line up with the "bad news" Larry talked about on Sunday? How do you see this "bad news" at work in your life?

- What principles about how God treats his children do you see in this passage? How does this line up with the “good news” in Larry’s sermon? Share a time when you have experienced this “good news” personally.
- What do these verses say about the role Christians should play in each other’s lives? How can we do that for each other in this group?

TRAIN

- How does this passage and/or the sermon challenge you to think differently about the circumstances in your life that seem too hard, too big, or too confusing?
- How should the truths in this passage change how we live? What’s a practical step you can take to put this into practice this week?
- How else is God using this passage and Sunday’s sermon to speak to you?
- The prayers of the Corinthian Christians were obviously important to Paul. Why was this? Share a way we can pray for you this week as you face the challenges in your life.

DIGGING DEEPER:

- Read Ephesians 6:10-20 several times this week. Pray that God would “outfit you” for the battles you are facing.
- Read 2 Kings 6:8-23. Pray that God would open your eyes and let you see that “those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”
- Read 1 Samuel 17. Pray that God would increase your faith that he is fighting for you.