

Exodus, chapter eleven.

We've been following Moses on this incredible journey, and if we're honest, from a human perspective, things have looked pretty bleak. He's gone before the most powerful man on earth, he's made his demands, and time and time again, he's been shut down. Pharaoh's heart has remained as hard as stone, and Egypt has been battered by plague after plague. In the last chapter, Pharaoh finally snapped and told Moses, "Get away from me! If I see your face again, you're a dead man."

Have you ever felt like that in your walk with the Lord? You're trying to do what's right, you're stepping out in faith, and it feels like you're just hitting a brick wall. It seems like things are going from bad to worse. But notice: when we are at the end of our rope, that is exactly where God begins His greatest work.

The Final Warning

Exodus 11:1-3

The Lord speaks to Moses in verse one and says:

"I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. Afterward he will let you go from here. When he lets you go, he will surely drive you out of here altogether."

God is saying, "Moses, the victory is at hand." Pharaoh wasn't just going to give them permission to leave; he was going to literally kick them out of the land! He would be so desperate to see them go that he'd practically be pushing them out the door.

Now, look at verse two. There's a word here that is often translated as "borrow," and it's led to some confusion. It makes it sound like the Israelites were being told to "rip off" their neighbors—to "borrow" jewelry and gold with no intention of giving it back. But the original language is better understood as "to ask" or "to request."

Think about this: the Israelites had been slaves for generations. They had built the cities of Egypt with their own sweat and blood and had never received a paycheck. This wasn't a "rip-off"; this was God settling the accounts. This was back wages for years of unpaid labor. And the amazing thing is that the Lord gave the people favor. The Egyptians were so ready for the plagues to stop that they were happy to give the Israelites whatever they asked for just to get them to leave!

The Midnight Cry

Exodus 11:4-6

Moses gives the final warning:

"Thus says the Lord: 'About midnight I will go out into the midst of Egypt; and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die...'"

From the royal palace of Pharaoh to the humble house of the maidservant, and even the firstborn of the livestock—no one was exempt. Moses warns that there would be a cry throughout Egypt like nothing ever heard before.

It's a heavy scene, isn't it? It reminds us that God is a God of justice. He is patient, and He is long-suffering—think of how many chances He gave Pharaoh! —but His judgment eventually comes. For those who continually harden their hearts against the conviction of the Holy Spirit, there eventually comes a "midnight hour."

The Distinction God Makes

Exodus 11:7-10

But look at the contrast in verse seven:

"But against any of the children of Israel shall not a dog move its tongue... that you may know that the Lord does make a difference between the Egyptians and Israel."

I love that. While Egypt is in chaos, there is such peace in the camp of Israel that not even a dog so much as barks. God always puts a "difference" or a distinction between those who are His and those who are not.

Now, we need to be careful here. This isn't about the Israelites being "better" people. It wasn't about their nationality or their good works. The difference was found in their relationship with God and their obedience to His word. Later, we'll see it was the blood of the lamb on the doorposts that made the difference.

Today, that same distinction exists. The world is full of darkness, anxiety, and fear, but for the child of God, there is a "peace that surpasses all understanding." God knows those who are His.

Practical Application: Not a Hoof Left Behind

As Moses prepares to leave, he is "very great" in the eyes of the people, and he leaves Pharaoh's presence in great anger. He knew the cost of Pharaoh's rebellion.

The application for us today is simple: Whose side are you on? Are you trying to live with one foot in "Egypt" and one foot in the Kingdom? God wants to bring you out "altogether." He doesn't want you to leave your heart or your family behind in a world that is under judgment. He wants you to walk in the "light of the living."

A Challenge for the Believer

Are you discouraged today because your circumstances look "worse" than they did yesterday? Don't lose heart. Moses was at his lowest point right before his greatest victory. Trust that God is working behind the scenes. He is settling the accounts, and He is preparing your deliverance. Keep your eyes on Him and stay faithful to the call He has placed on your life.

An Invitation to the Unbeliever

Perhaps you feel that "midnight" is approaching in your own life. You've been hardening your heart, resisting the pull of God, and trying to find satisfaction in a world that is ultimately passing away.

I have good news for you. You don't have to face the judgment. Thousands of years after Moses, another "Firstborn"—the only begotten Son of God—came into this world. Jesus Christ shed His blood on the cross to pay the debt for your sins so that you wouldn't have to. And His resurrection declares to the entire universe that He is God, Savior, and Lord.

He has victory over death, and He offers that victory to you today. You don't have to "earn" it; you just have to "ask" for it. Turn away from the darkness of your own way and step into His light. Give Him your life today.