**BCM Bible Study: September 23/24, 2020**

**Exodus 5:1-7:7: Failure and God’s Glory**

Things Get Worse: **Read Exodus 5:1-21**

* What is the basis of Pharaoh’s dismissal of Moses and Aaron?
* What are some other masters (i.e. schoolwork, approval from parents, societal expectations, the desire to be liked, etc.) that compete for our devotion to God? How can these masters pull you away from a sense of worship into a mindset of working to measure up to a certain standard?
* When God hears the cries of his people, he seeks to rescue them. When Pharaoh hears their cries, he not only prevents them from leaving, he increases their hardship.
	+ What does this show you about Pharaoh’s heart? About the heart of God?
	+ **Read Romans 6:15-23**. Have you experienced the different kinds of “bondage” described in this passage? (slaves to sin vs. slaves to righteousness) How are they different?
* As this section ends, things have gotten worse! We might be asking, “Wait, I thought God told Moses to do this. Why are things getting worse? What is happening?”
	+ Have you ever experienced difficulty and setbacks when trying to pursue God’s will?
	+ **Read 1 Peter 4:12-13**. What does this teach us about what it means to follow God?
	+ How can we remain faithful in the midst of difficulty like this?

The Table is Set: **Read Exodus 5:22-6:9**

* This conversation mirrors the one from chapter 3. How might Moses hear God’s words differently now that he has experienced discouragement?
* Why was Moses’ initial “failure” important for God’s purposes in revealing his new name?
* “Moses has not yet learned that there is more at stake here than how *he* is doing. God’s character is at stake.” (Peter Enns) How does this quote speak to your own life?
* Have you personally experienced others’ rejection of God’s word? How did you feel as a result?
* Have you experienced angry reactions from Christians to rejection of God’s ways?
	+ What is an alternative way to respond in a way that shows other people what Jesus is like?

**Read Exodus 6:10-30**

* This genealogy is in an odd place. There are two clues to its purpose.
	+ First, what does the genealogy itself focus on? Why might this be important to the story of Exodus?
	+ Second, notice that verses 10-12 and 28-30 are identical. They do not represent separate events, but serve as bookends to the genealogy.
		- What is the message of the bookends?
		- How does this relate to the genealogy?
* Moses, in writing this, seems to be intent of authenticating Aaron’s role in the mission of God. It is hard to say why Aaron needed to be supported in this way, but God does so by looking both backward at his ancestors and forward at his descendants. Why does God do this? Why not focus on Aaron himself?
	+ Can you trace God’s story of faithfulness in your own life whether through your family or friends?

**Read Exodus 7:1-7**

* What does it mean that Moses is like God to Pharaoh?
	+ How did Moses play the role of God to Pharaoh?
	+ **Read 2 Corinthians 5:20.** What does it look like to be Christ to others?
* What is your sense of intimacy with God?

**Challenge**: Sit alone or with a friend somewhere outside. Spend 3 minutes thanking God for the gifts he has given you. Next, spend 3 minutes reflecting on times when God felt particularly close to you. Close with at least 3 minutes of silence.