



Exodus Devotional Series - "I Am who I am"

13 Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" **14** God said to Moses, "I am who I am." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I am has sent me to you.'"

- Exodus 3:13-14

Summary:

What will you find in each devotional? You will find the scriptures for each devotional, a summary of the content of the scriptures. You will also find a sections titled "bottom line," key points, key scriptures, and self-reflection questions. Those sections are just to help guide you. They are what I got from the text, you might read the scripture and get something complete different. Thats ok! God will speak differently to you than He did to me. I would recommend that you go through the devotional with a notebook/piece of paper. Jot down notes of what's going on in the text, what are the key takeaways are, how God is speaking to you through the text, and answer the questions. You could read this online or print it out and write on it.

What is this for?

This devotional series goes hand and hand with our 8-week sermon series with the same title. This series covers all forty chapters of the book of Exodus. You can do it at your own pace, but if you start it on the second of December, you will finish it the day after we finish the sermon series. This is the first eleven devotionals, with the rest being release throughout December. This series is just a tool for your faith, use it! Be intentionally by spending time with the Lord to learn more about Him and how He works in our lives.

Devotional One

Exodus 1: 1-11

Main Points:

1. God honored his promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (v. 1-7)
 2. God can still honor his promises through our pain (v. 8-14)
 3. We should always fear God more than authority (v. 15-22)
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Key Verses:

(v. 5-7) The nation of Israel is developed.

(v. 10-12) Israel being oppressed.

(v. 18-21) Midwives feared God more than the pharaoh.

Self Reflection questions:

1. How can you be reassured that God fulfills His promises after reading this chapter?
2. What will it take to have the same kind of healthy fear of God like the midwives did?
3. How is or how has God honored his promises through your pain/growth?

Scriptures: Exodus 1:1-11 - "Israel as a Nation"

1 These are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob, each with his household: **2** Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, **3** Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin, **4** Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher. **5** All the descendants of Jacob were seventy persons; Joseph was already in Egypt. **6** Then Joseph died, and all his brothers and all that generation. **7** But the people of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them.

8 Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. **9** And he said to his people, "Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us. **10** Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and, if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." **11** Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with heavy burdens. They built for Pharaoh store cities, Pithom and Raamses.

Summary:

Jacob's descendants multiplied and multiplied and became a nation. That nation was under the rule of the Egyptian government. The Egyptian King treated the Hebrew people very harshly. He saw their mass population and made a decree that all baby boys were to be killed.

Bottom Line:

God is still present and moving in the midst of chaos. Even when we are slaves to things of this world. God is present. God is moving. Even when we feel like we are under enemy rule, God is present. God is moving.

Devotional Two

Exodus 2: 1-10

Main Points:

1. The Hebrew woman had to make a choice out of desperation. One that would lead to Israel's people being freed. (v. 3)
 2. There are no coincidences, only God moving. (v. 5-8)
 3. Moses was destined to draw out the Israelite people out of Egypt from the beginning. (v. 10)
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Key Verses:

(v. 3-4) Moses was placed in the Nile river in a basket to die.

(v. 6) The Pharaoh's daughter takes pity on the boy.

(v. 9-10) The Pharaoh's daughter hires the boy's mother to take care of the baby and gives him his name, Moses.

Self Reflection questions:

1. Have you ever had to make a choice out of desperation, like Moses' mother?
2. Do you have a time in your life that feels like a coincidence but is just God moving in your life?
3. How can you take someone in from your sphere of influence and help them, like Pharaoh's daughter.

Scriptures: Exodus 2:1-10 - "Birth of Moses"

1 Now a man from the house of Levi went and took as his wife a Levite woman. **2** The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months. **3** When she could hide him no longer, she took for him a basket made of bulrushes and daubed it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child in it and placed it among the reeds by the river bank. **4** And his sister stood at a distance to know what would be done to him.

5 Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her young women walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her servant woman, and she took it. **6** When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby was crying. She took pity on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children." **7** Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" **8** And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the girl went and called the child's mother. **9** And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him. **10** When the child grew older, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "Because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

Summary:

A Hebrew mother who had given birth to a baby boy under the decree that stated that all Hebrew baby boys were to be killed had to make a choice out of desperation. She let the baby as long as it possibly could without being caught. When he became too old, she placed him in a basket and put him in the river. Now, who finds him? The daughter of the Pharaoh of course! She took pity on the child, took it in as her own, and hired the mother to nurse it. She named him Moses. Moses sounds like the Hebrew word to "draw out of"

Bottom Line:

This story feels like a coincidence, that the man who would lead Israel out of Egypt and was the first major leader of Israel was just found by the Pharaoh's daughter. This story is no coincidence, it is one hundred percent God moving in the life of Moses. Moses was handpicked to lead Israel before he was even born.

Devotional Three

Exodus 2: 11-25

Main Points:

1. Moses fled from the fear and guilt of his sins (v. 11-15)
 2. Moses defending the women at the well shows his true character (v. 16-20)
 3. God saw the people of Israel—and God knew. (v. 23-25)
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Key Verses:

(v. 15) Moses fleeing from his sin and shame

(v. 16-17) Moses helps the women at the well

(v. 23-25) Israel cried out to God.

Self Reflection questions:

1. What of some ways that you have fled from the guilt of your sins like Moses did?
2. Does your true character show through your actions? Why or why not?
3. In what ways have you felt God respond when you have cried out in anguish or pain?

Scriptures: Exodus 2:11-25 - “Moses flees and Israel’s groaning”

11 One day, when Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and looked on their burdens, and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his people. **12** He looked this way and that, and seeing no one, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. **13** When he went out the next day, behold, two Hebrews were struggling together. And he said to the man in the wrong, “Why do you strike your companion?” **14** He answered, “Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?” Then Moses was afraid, and thought, “Surely the thing is known.” **15** When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh and stayed in the land of Midian. And he sat down by a well.

16 Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came and drew water and filled the troughs to water their father's flock. **17** The shepherds came and drove them away, but Moses stood up and saved them, and watered their flock. **18** When they came home to their father Reuel, he said, “How is it that you have come home so soon today?” **19** They said, “An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds and even drew water for us and watered the flock.” **20** He said to his daughters, “Then where is he? Why have you left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread.” **21** And Moses was content to dwell with the man, and he gave Moses his daughter Zipporah. **22** She gave birth to a son, and he called his name Gershom, for he said, “I have been a sojourner in a foreign land.”

23 During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. **24** And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. **25** God saw the people of Israel—and God knew.

Summary:

When Moses is older, he beats a man to death, and flees from his crime. He makes his way to Midian and marries one of the priest's daughters after helping them at the well and they start a family. Interesting to note here, they name their firstborn son, Gershom, because it sounds like the Hebrew word for sojourner, which Moses is in Midian. God felt the nation of Israel cry out to God in anguish. He felt the nation cry out and knew exactly how He was going to get them free.

Bottom Line:

Moses sins but his true character is not defined by his sins, but by his actions after the fact. How he protected the daughters of the priest at the well from the shepherds and helped them get water for their father's flock, shows his true nature. He ran from his sin because of fear of death. Israel was hurting and cried out to God. And God knew just who He was going to use to save Israel.

Devotional Four

Exodus 3: 1-22

Main Points:

1. God can and will talk to us in extraordinary ways (v. 2-6)
2. There is nowhere we can hide from God and our sins (v. 1)
3. God handpicks us for roles within His kingdom (v. 7-12)

Key Verses:

(v. 14) "I am who I am"

(v. 8) God promises Moses a land filled with milk and honey for Israel.

(v. 19) The Pharaoh will only be convinced by a mighty hand.

Self Reflection questions:

1. In what ways have you felt God talk to you in an unexpected way? (ex. Nature, music, another person, etc.)
2. In what ways have you seen yourself be hesitant to answer God's call because you do not seem "fit for the job."
3. What handpicked role has God chosen you for?

Scriptures: Exodus 3:1-22 - "The Burning Bush"

1 Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. **2** And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. **3** And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." **4** When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." **5** Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." **6** And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. **7** Then the Lord said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, **8** and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. **9** And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. **10** Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." **11** But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" **12** He said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

13 Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" **14** God said to Moses, "I am who I am." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I am has sent me to you.'" **15** God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations. **16** Go and gather the elders of Israel together and say to them, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, has appeared to me, saying, "I have observed you and what has been done to you in Egypt, **17** and I promise that I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, a land flowing with milk and honey.'" **18** And they will listen to your voice, and you and the elders of Israel shall go to the king of Egypt and say to him, 'The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us; and now, please let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God.' **19** But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless compelled by a mighty hand. **20** So I will stretch out my hand and strike Egypt with all the wonders that I will do in it; after that he will let you go. **21** And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and when you go, you shall not go empty, **22** but each woman shall ask of her neighbor, and any woman who lives in her house, for silver and gold jewelry, and for clothing. You shall put them on your sons and on your daughters. So you shall plunder the Egyptians."

Summary:

God speaks to Moses in an extraordinary way, through a burning bush. God has called Moses to go back to Egypt to save Israel from Pharaoh and the Egyptians. God promises to not only protect Moses and his people, but lead them to the promise land. A perfect place for the Israelites to reside. God tells Moses that this is no easy task but He will guide and provide.

Bottom Line:

God has chosen Moses as the person to save Israel from captivity, and lead them to the promise land. Moses is very hesitant and does not think he is the right man for the job.

Devotional Five

Exodus 4: 1-23, 27-31

Main Points:

1. God's power is revealed through our weakness (v. 1-5)
 2. God uses imperfect people (v. 10-12)
 3. God provides support when we have doubts (v. 13-17)
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Key Verses:

(v. 3-4) God's first sign to Moses

(v. 11-12) Who is the God of creation?

(v. 14-17) God tells Moses to go and use Aaron to convey the words that God gives him and use the staff for signs and wonders.

Self Reflection questions:

1. How has God equipped you through His calling?
2. In what ways has God given you support when you have had doubts?
3. Have you every felt that you were the wrong choice in God's plan? How did God prove to you that you were wrong?

Scriptures: Exodus 4:1-23, 27-31 - "God equips the called and Moses's return"

1 Then Moses answered, "But behold, they will not believe me or listen to my voice, for they will say, 'The Lord did not appear to you.'" **2** The Lord said to him, "What is that in your hand?" He said, "A staff." **3** And he said, "Throw it on the ground." So he threw it on the ground, and it became a serpent, and Moses ran from it. **4** But the Lord said to Moses, "Put out your hand and catch it by the tail"—so he put out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff in his hand— **5** "that they may believe that the Lord, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you." **6** Again, the Lord said to him, "Put your hand inside your cloak." And he put his hand inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous like snow. **7** Then God said, "Put your hand back inside your cloak." So he put his hand back inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, it was restored like the rest of his flesh. **8** "If they will not believe you," God said, "or listen to the first sign, they may believe the latter sign. **9** If they will not believe even these two signs or listen to your voice, you shall take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground, and the water that you shall take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground." **10** But Moses said to the Lord, "Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue." **11** Then the Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? **12** Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak." **13** But he said, "Oh, my Lord, please send someone else." **14** Then the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses and he said, "Is there not Aaron, your brother, the Levite? I know that he can speak well. Behold, he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. **15** You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth, and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth and will teach you both what to do. **16** He shall speak for you to the people, and he shall be your mouth, and you shall be as God to him. **17** And take in your hand this staff, with which you shall do the signs."

18 Moses went back to Jethro his father-in-law and said to him, "Please let me go back to my brothers in Egypt to see whether they are still alive." And Jethro said to Moses, "Go in peace." **19** And the Lord said to Moses in Midian, "Go back to Egypt, for all the men who were seeking your life are dead." **20** So Moses took his wife and his sons and had them ride on a donkey, and went back to the land of Egypt. And Moses took the staff of God in his hand. **21** And the Lord said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt, see that you do before Pharaoh all the miracles that I have put in your power. But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go. **22** Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the Lord, Israel is my firstborn son, **23** and I say to you, "Let my son go that he may serve me." If you refuse to let him go, behold, I will kill your firstborn son."

27 The Lord said to Aaron, "Go into the wilderness to meet Moses." So he went and met him at the mountain of God and kissed him. **28** And Moses told Aaron all the words of the Lord with which he had sent him to speak, and all the signs that he had commanded him to do. **29** Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the people of Israel. **30** Aaron spoke all the words that the Lord had spoken to Moses and did the signs in the sight of the people. **31** And the people believed; and when they heard that the Lord had visited the people of Israel and that he had seen their affliction, they bowed their heads and worshiped.

Summary:

God is calling Moses out from Midian and back to Egypt to save Israel but Moses does not think he is qualified to lead. He thinks he will be unable to convince Pharaoh to let his people go. God shows signs and wonders to Moses to prove to him that He will provide a way.

Bottom Line:

God equips the called, not the other way around. God will use us for His ultimate glory, even though we are not perfect. If God only used perfect people, there would be no-one for Him to use.

Devotional Six

Exodus 5:1-23

Main points:

1. We should not let other's ignorance stop us from honoring God's plan (v. 1-4)
2. Living a life that honors God will not be easy or without pain (v. 6-21)
3. When our people hurt, turn to God (v. 22-23)

Key Verses:

(v. 2) Pharaoh's denial.

(v. 6-9) Pharaoh made the Israelites work nearly impossible.

(v. 22-23) Moses' prayer.

Self Reflection questions:

1. Has there been someone who intentionally or unintentionally tried to stop you from doing what God called you to do?
2. When has living your life in a way that honors God been difficult for you?
3. Who is someone you could pray for because they are in a season of hurt right now? Pray for them.

Scriptures: Exodus 5:1-23 - "Bricks without straw"

1 Afterward Moses and Aaron went and said to Pharaoh, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'Let my people go, that they may hold a feast to me in the wilderness.'" **2** But Pharaoh said, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, and moreover, 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, lest he fall upon us with pestilence or with the sword." **4** But the king of Egypt said to them, "Moses and Aaron, why do you take the people away from their work? Get back to your burdens." **5** And Pharaoh said, "Behold, the people of the land are now many, and you make them rest from their burdens!" **6** The same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters of the people and their foremen, **7** "You shall no longer give the people straw to make bricks, as in the past; let them go and gather straw for themselves. **8** But the number of bricks that they made in the past you shall impose on them, you shall by no means reduce it, for they are idle. Therefore they cry, 'Let us go and offer sacrifice to our God.' **9** Let heavier work be laid on the men that they may labor at it and pay no regard to lying words."

10 So the taskmasters and the foremen of the people went out and said to the people, "Thus says Pharaoh, 'I will not give you straw. **11** Go and get your straw yourselves wherever you can find it, but your work will not be reduced in the least.'" **12** So the people were scattered throughout all the land of Egypt to gather stubble for straw. **13** The taskmasters were urgent, saying, "Complete your work, your daily task each day, as when there was straw." **14** And the foremen of the people of Israel, whom Pharaoh's taskmasters had set over them, were beaten and were asked, "Why have you not done all your task of making bricks today and yesterday, as in the past?"

15 Then the foremen of the people of Israel came and cried to Pharaoh, "Why do you treat your servants like this? **16** No straw is given to your servants, yet they say to us, 'Make bricks!' And behold, your servants are beaten; but the fault is in your own people." **17** But he said, "You are idle, you are idle; that is why you say, 'Let us go and sacrifice to the Lord.' **18** Go now and work. No straw will be given you, but you must still deliver the same number of bricks." **19** The foremen of the people of Israel saw that they were in trouble when they said, "You shall by no means reduce your number of bricks, your daily task each day." **20** They met Moses and Aaron, who were waiting for them, as they came out from Pharaoh; **21** and they said to them, "The Lord look on you and judge, because you have made us stink in the sight of Pharaoh and his servants, and have put a sword in their hand to kill us."

22 Then Moses turned to the Lord and said, "O Lord, why have you done evil to this people? Why did you ever send me? **23** For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has done evil to this people, and you have not delivered your people at all."

Summary:

Moses and Aaron's first interaction with the Pharaoh does not go swimmingly. Pharaoh denies them and mocks God, Moses, and Aaron. Pharaoh then punishes the Israelites, and forces difficult labor onto them. By taking away the straw, which was a main ingredient to make bricks, it made making bricks almost impossible. It created more work for the Israelite slaves.

Bottom Line:

There will be people that will try to block out what God has planned for you. Yet, we have to persevere. There will be seasons of hurt and pain. Yet, we have to persevere. To answer God's callings for us, we have to persevere.

Devotional Seven

Exodus 6: 1-13

Main points:

1. When God makes a promise, He will deliver. (v. 6-9)
2. God doesn't view our "failures" as failures, but just as a part of the plan. (v. 10-13)
3. We fail to hear God properly when we feel broken (v. 9)

Key Verses:

(v. 2-8) God's Promise of deliverance.

(v. 6-9) The people of Israel feel broken because of their suffering.

(v. 13) God gives support to Moses and Aaron because they feel like they have failed.

Self Reflection questions:

1. When is a time in your life that you felt like God was not taking no for an answer?
2. Has it been difficult to properly hear and obey God, when you feel broken and like you have failed?
3. How has God given you support when you have felt like you have failed?

Scriptures: Exodus 6:1-13 - "God's promise of deliverance"

1 But the Lord said to Moses, "Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh; for with a strong hand he will send them out, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land."

2 God spoke to Moses and said to him, "I am the Lord. **3** I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by my name the Lord I did not make myself known to them. **4** I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as sojourners. **5** Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant. **6** Say therefore to the people of Israel, 'I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. **7** I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the Lord your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. **8** I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. I am the Lord.'" **9** Moses spoke thus to the people of Israel, but they did not listen to Moses, because of their broken spirit and harsh slavery.

10 So the Lord said to Moses, **11** "Go in, tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the people of Israel go out of his land." **12** But Moses said to the Lord, "Behold, the people of Israel have not listened to me. How then shall Pharaoh listen to me, for I am of uncircumcised lips?" **13** But the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron and gave them a charge about the people of Israel and about Pharaoh king of Egypt: to bring the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt.

Summary:

We see that Moses tries to tell God that he will be unable to help the Israelites who are in Egypt, that Pharaoh will not let his people go. But God has a different plan for Moses and Israel. The Israelites were too broken in their spirits and felt trapped in their slavery, so they could not properly hear what God had to say. We see how God has fulfilled his promises and covenant with all of Moses's ancestors through his genealogy and promises to the Israelites. God honored his promise to Abraham by having him be the father to many nations.

Bottom Line:

God will not take no for an answer, not from the pharaoh and especially not from Moses. God will chase after His chosen people. He chases after us. He does not want us to be in pain, to be lost. He does not want us to feel broken or feel like failures. We are not to sit in our past but let it fuel our future that God has planned for us.

Devotional Eight

Exodus 7:1-25

Main points:

1. God will continue to use us, even if we don't seem effective (v. 13-14)
2. Only the actions of God can heal hardened hearts (v. 3-4)
3. Through it all, Moses and Aaron stayed loyal (v. 10, 20)

Key Verses:

(v. 8-10) Snake and staff miracle

(v. 19-21) God turns the river Nile into blood

(v. 22-23) Pharaoh's heart was still hardened even after the miracles

Self Reflection questions:

1. What's something that you deem as a "failure" in your life that God just sees as a step in His plan?
2. Why do you think that Pharaoh's heart was hardened even after seeing the power of God?
3. Even when things go wrong, Moses and Aaron stay loyal to God. When have you stayed loyal to God even when things seem to go wrong?

Scriptures: Exodus 7:1-25 - "Moses and Aaron before Pharaoh and the first plague"

1 And the Lord said to Moses, "See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron shall be your prophet. **2** You shall speak all that I command you, and your brother Aaron shall tell Pharaoh to let the people of Israel go out of his land. **3** But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, **4** Pharaoh will not listen to you. Then I will lay my hand on Egypt and bring my hosts, my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great acts of judgment. **5** The Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring out the people of Israel from among them." **6** Moses and Aaron did so; they did just as the Lord commanded them. **7** Now Moses was eighty years old, and Aaron eighty-three years old, when they spoke to Pharaoh. **8** Then the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, **9** "When Pharaoh says to you, 'Prove yourselves by working a miracle,' then you shall say to Aaron, 'Take your staff and cast it down before Pharaoh, that it may become a serpent.'" **10** So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did just as the Lord commanded. Aaron cast down his staff before Pharaoh and his servants, and it became a serpent. **11** Then Pharaoh summoned the wise men and the sorcerers, and they, the magicians of Egypt, also did the same by their secret arts. **12** For each man cast down his staff, and they became serpents. But Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs. **13** Still Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said.

14 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Pharaoh's heart is hardened; he refuses to let the people go. **15** Go to Pharaoh in the morning, as he is going out to the water. Stand on the bank of the Nile to meet him, and take in your hand the staff that turned into a serpent. **16** And you shall say to him, 'The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, sent me to you, saying, "Let my people go, that they may serve me in the wilderness." But so far, you have not obeyed. **17** Thus says the Lord, "By this you shall know that I am the Lord: behold, with the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water that is in the Nile, and it shall turn into blood. **18** The fish in the Nile shall die, and the Nile will stink, and the Egyptians will grow weary of drinking water from the Nile.'" **19** And the Lord said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their rivers, their canals, and their ponds, and all their pools of water, so that they may become blood, and there shall be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, even in vessels of wood and in vessels of stone.'" **20** Moses and Aaron did as the Lord commanded. In the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants he lifted up the staff and struck the water in the Nile, and all the water in the Nile turned into blood. **21** And the fish in the Nile died, and the Nile stank, so that the Egyptians could not drink water from the Nile. There was blood throughout all the land of Egypt. **22** But the magicians of Egypt did the same by their secret arts. So Pharaoh's heart remained hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said. **23** Pharaoh turned and went into his house, and he did not take even this to heart. **24** And all the Egyptians dug along the Nile for water to drink, for they could not drink the water of the Nile. **25** Seven full days passed after the Lord had struck the Nile.

Summary:

The Lord has Moses and Aaron go back before Pharaoh but tells them that he will have a hardened heart but God will do signs and wonders to showcase his power. God turned Aaron's staff into a serpent and it eats the serpents that Egypt's wise men and sorcerers cast. Even after the miracle from God, Pharaoh's heart was still hardened. The Lord then, through Moses and Aaron, turned the River Nile into blood. This is the first plague that God sets on Egypt because Pharaoh is refusing to let the Lord's people go.

Bottom Line:

Just because our plans seem unsuccessful, does not mean that God is not working in the midst of our "failures." What we see as "failures," God sees as just another part of His plan. Moses and Aaron stuck by God, even though Pharaoh was refusing to give up the Israelites. Moses and Aaron knew God had a plan and were helping execute it, even if they didn't see the big picture.

Devotional Nine

Exodus 8: 1-32

Main points:

1. God has the power to create storms of animals and insects. (v. 6, 17, 24)
2. Even non-believers can see the power and works of God. (v. 19)
3. Pharaoh pleads with Moses and Aaron to get rid of the plagues and gets more than what he bargains for. (v. 8)

Key Verses:

(v. 19) The Egyptian magicians recognize the power of God

(v. 8) Pharaoh pleading with Moses and Aaron

Self Reflection questions:

1. How have you seen the power of God through nature?
2. Have you ever seen an unbeliever see the power of God but stay an unbeliever? They deny the power of God
3. Have you ever made a promise to God in exchange for something but, like Pharaoh, turned back on it?

Scriptures: Exodus 8:1-32 - "Frogs, gnats, flies. Oh My!"

1 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go in to Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord, "Let my people go, that they may serve me. **2** But if you refuse to let them go, behold, I will plague all your country with frogs. **3** The Nile shall swarm with frogs that shall come up into your house and into your bedroom and on your bed and into the houses of your servants and your people, and into your ovens and your kneading bowls. **4** The frogs shall come up on you and on your people and on all your servants.'" **5** And the Lord said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, "Stretch out your hand with your staff over the rivers, over the canals and over the pools, and make frogs come up on the land of Egypt!" **6** So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt. **7** But the magicians did the same by their secret arts and made frogs come up on the land of Egypt. **8** Then Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron and said, "Plead with the Lord to take away the frogs from me and from my people, and I will let the people go to sacrifice to the Lord." **9** Moses said to Pharaoh, "Be pleased to command me when I am to plead for you and for your servants and for your people, that the frogs be cut off from you and your houses and be left only in the Nile." **10** And he said, "Tomorrow." Moses said, "Be it as you say, so that you may know that there is no one like the Lord our God. **11** The frogs shall go away from you and your houses and your servants and your people. They shall be left only in the Nile." **12** So Moses and Aaron went out from Pharaoh, and Moses cried to the Lord about the frogs, as he had agreed with Pharaoh. **13** And the Lord did according to the word of Moses. The frogs died out in the houses, the courtyards, and the fields. **14** And they gathered them together in heaps, and the land stank. **15** But when Pharaoh saw that there was a respite, he hardened his heart and would not listen to them, as the Lord had said.

16 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the earth, so that it may become gnats in all the land of Egypt.'" **17** And they did so. Aaron stretched out his hand with his staff and struck the dust of the earth, and there were gnats on man and beast. All the dust of the earth became gnats in all the land of Egypt. **18** The magicians tried by their secret arts to produce gnats, but they could not. So there were gnats on man and beast. **19** Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said. **20** Then the Lord said to Moses, "Rise up early in the morning and present yourself to Pharaoh, as he goes out to the water, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord, "Let my people go, that they may serve me. **21** Or else, if you will not let my people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies on you and your servants and your people, and into your houses. And the houses of the Egyptians shall be filled with swarms of flies, and also the ground on which they stand. **22** But on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where my people dwell, so that no swarms of flies shall be there, that you may know that I am the Lord in the midst of the earth. **23** Thus I will put a division between my people and your people. Tomorrow this sign shall happen.'" **24** And the Lord did so. There came great swarms of flies into the house of Pharaoh and into his servants' houses. Throughout all the land of Egypt the land was ruined by the swarms of flies.

25 Then Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron and said, "Go, sacrifice to your God within the land." **26** But Moses said, "It would not be right to do so, for the offerings we shall sacrifice to the Lord our God are an abomination to the Egyptians. If we sacrifice offerings abominable to the Egyptians before their eyes, will they not stone us? **27** We must go three days' journey into the wilderness and sacrifice to the Lord our God as he tells us." **28** So Pharaoh said, "I will let you go to sacrifice to the Lord your God in the wilderness; only you must not go very far away. Plead for me." **29** Then Moses said, "Behold, I am going out from you and I will plead with the Lord that the swarms of flies may depart from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people, tomorrow. Only let not Pharaoh cheat again by not letting the people go to sacrifice to the Lord." **30** So Moses went out from Pharaoh and prayed to the Lord. **31** And the Lord did as Moses asked, and removed the swarms of flies from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people; not one remained. **32** But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also, and did not let the people go.

Summary:

Pharaoh continues to have a hardened heart when it comes to letting the Israelites go. So, the Lord hits Egypt with three plagues. He first covered Egypt with frogs. The Pharaoh begged Moses and Aaron that the frogs would be taken away, and Moses tells him to be careful what you wish for. God then kills all of the frogs and has the stench covered the land. This hardened Pharaoh's heart. The next plague to hit Egypt is hordes and hordes of gnats that covered all the animals and people of Egypt. Even the magicians of Egypt knew that this was God but the Pharaoh's heart continued to be hardened. The next plague was swarms of flies. Pharaoh asked Moses and Aaron to make sacrifices to God on his behalf to stop the plague. Moses did it on the condition that Pharaoh would let his people go, but Pharaoh went back on his word and did not let the people go.

Bottom Line:

Our God is almighty, we should see that. Our God is the God of creation and rules over the earth. There is nothing He can't do. I would want to be on the side of a God who has the power to control hordes of frogs, gnats, and flies, not be the one begging for them to be taken away.

Devotional Ten

Exodus 9: 1-35

Main points:

1. God protects his people (v. 6-7)
2. We cannot fully trust man to honor their promises but we can trust God. (v. 34-35)
3. Our God have command of all aspects of nature, including weather (v. 22-23)

Key Verses:

(v. 4-7) God did not harm Israel's livestock but wiped out Egypt's livestock

(v. 34-35) Pharaoh breaks another promise

(v. 22-23) God summons hail, rain, wind, fire, and thunder

Self Reflection questions:

1. Even through seven plagues, Pharaoh's heart is still hardened. Has your heart in the past been hardened by your experiences in life? How did God soften it?
2. Have you ever been burned by someone who went back on a promise?
3. How do you find comfort in our Lord who does not go back on His promises?

Scriptures: Exodus 9:1-35 - "Plagues, why does it always have to be plagues!"

1 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go in to Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, "Let my people go, that they may serve me. **2** For if you refuse to let them go and still hold them, **3** behold, the hand of the Lord will fall with a very severe plague upon your livestock that are in the field, the horses, the donkeys, the camels, the herds, and the flocks. **4** But the Lord will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt, so that nothing of all that belongs to the people of Israel shall die.'" **5** And the Lord set a time, saying, "Tomorrow the Lord will do this thing in the land." **6** And the next day the Lord did this thing. All the livestock of the Egyptians died, but not one of the livestock of the people of Israel died. **7** And Pharaoh sent, and behold, not one of the livestock of Israel was dead. But the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people go. **8** And the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "Take handfuls of soot from the kiln, and let Moses throw them in the air in the sight of Pharaoh. **9** It shall become fine dust over all the land of Egypt, and become boils breaking out in sores on man and beast throughout all the land of Egypt." **10** So they took soot from the kiln and stood before Pharaoh. And Moses threw it in the air, and it became boils breaking out in sores on man and beast. **11** And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils, for the boils came upon the magicians and upon all the Egyptians. **12** But the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh, and he did not listen to them, as the Lord had spoken to Moses.

13 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Rise up early in the morning and present yourself before Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, "Let my people go, that they may serve me. **14** For this time I will send all my plagues on you yourself, and on your servants and your people, so that you may know that there is none like me in all the earth. **15** For by now I could have put out my hand and struck you and your people with pestilence, and you would have been cut off from the earth. **16** But for this purpose I have raised you up, to show you my power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth. **17** You are still exalting yourself against my people and will not let them go. **18** Behold, about this time tomorrow I will cause very heavy hail to fall, such as never has been in Egypt from the day it was founded until now. **19** Now therefore send, get your livestock and all that you have in the field into safe shelter, for every man and beast that is in the field and is not brought home will die when the hail falls on them.'" **20** Then whoever feared the word of the Lord among the servants of Pharaoh hurried his slaves and his livestock into the houses, **21** but whoever did not pay attention to the word of the Lord left his slaves and his livestock in the field. **22** Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, so that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt, on man and beast and every plant of the field, in the land of Egypt." **23** Then Moses stretched out his staff toward heaven, and the Lord sent thunder and hail, and fire ran down to the earth. And the Lord rained hail upon the land of Egypt. **24** There was hail and fire flashing continually in the midst of the hail, very heavy hail, such as had never been in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation. **25** The hail struck down everything that was in the field in all the land of Egypt, both man and beast. And the hail struck down every plant of the field and broke every tree of the field. **26** Only in the land of Goshen, where the people of Israel were, was there no hail. **27** Then Pharaoh sent and called Moses and Aaron and said to them, "This time I have sinned; the Lord is in the right, and I and my people are in the wrong. **28** Plead with the Lord, for there has been enough of God's thunder and hail. I will let you go, and you shall stay no longer." **29** Moses said to him, "As soon as I have gone out of the city, I will stretch out my hands to the Lord. The thunder will cease, and there will be no more hail, so that you may know that the earth is the Lord's. **30** But as for you and your servants, I know that you do not yet fear the Lord God." **31** (The flax and the barley were struck down, for the barley was in the ear and the flax was in bud. **32** But the wheat and the emmer were not struck down, for they are late in coming up.) **33** So Moses went out of the city from Pharaoh and stretched out his hands to the Lord, and the thunder and the hail ceased, and the rain no longer poured upon the earth. **34** But when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunder had ceased, he sinned yet again and hardened his heart, he and his servants. **35** So the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people of Israel go, just as the Lord had spoken through Moses.

Summary:

For the fifth plague God kills all of the Egyptian livestock. None of Israel's livestock were harmed. The next plague that hit Egypt was boils and sores breaking out all over the people and every beast. Even after all six plagues so far, Pharaoh's heart was still hardened and he refused to let the people go. God then sent a horrible hail to Egypt. Before God sent the hail, fire, rain, and thunder, He had Moses tell all of Pharaoh's servants to get the livestock and get to shelter. Anyone who did not believe was afflicted with the severe weather. Pharaoh pleads with Moses again to get the plague to stop and promises to exalt the Lord's name and honor him, and Moses pleads with God and God stops the weather. Pharaoh then goes back on his promise again. Are we even surprised at this point?

Bottom Line:

Men lie, women lie, and kids lie. All three break their promises. But God doesn't. God does not lie, does not break a promise, and does not let us wander aimlessly. We should find comfort in a God who is willing to do everything in his power to get us back. He leaves the ninety nine to get us.

Devotional Eleven

Exodus 10:1-29

Main points:

1. God shows us signs and wonders to prove that He is Lord (v. 1-2)
2. Do not make a promise to God that you are not willing to keep. (v. 16-20)
3. Pharaoh was to release all of Israel, people and livestock, but was refusing. (v. 8-11, 24-26)

Key Verses:

(v. 7) Pharaoh's servants complain about the destruction caused by the Pharaoh's inability to let Israel go.

(v. 8-11) Pharaoh argues with Moses and Aaron on who would get released

(v. 24-27) Pharaoh argues with Moses and Aaron on if they were to get to keep their livestock.

Self Reflection questions:

1. Why do you think Pharaoh continued to argue with Moses and Aaron about who will be released after seeing the power of God and Egypt was in ruin?
2. How has God reminded you that He is Lord?

Scriptures: Exodus 10:1-29 - "Locusts and Darkness"

1 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go in to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the heart of his servants, that I may show these signs of mine among them, **2** and that you may tell in the hearing of your son and of your grandson how I have dealt harshly with the Egyptians and what signs I have done among them, that you may know that I am the Lord." **3** So Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh and said to him, "Thus says the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before me? Let my people go, that they may serve me. **4** For if you refuse to let my people go, behold, tomorrow I will bring locusts into your country, **5** and they shall cover the face of the land, so that no one can see the land. And they shall eat what is left to you after the hail, and they shall eat every tree of yours that grows in the field, **6** and they shall fill your houses and the houses of all your servants and of all the Egyptians, as neither your fathers nor your grandfathers have seen, from the day they came on earth to this day.'" Then he turned and went out from Pharaoh.

7 Then Pharaoh's servants said to him, "How long shall this man be a snare to us? Let the men go, that they may serve the Lord their God. Do you not yet understand that Egypt is ruined?" **8** So Moses and Aaron were brought back to Pharaoh. And he said to them, "Go, serve the Lord your God. But which ones are to go?" **9** Moses said, "We will go with our young and our old. We will go with our sons and daughters and with our flocks and herds, for we must hold a feast to the Lord." **10** But he said to them, "The Lord be with you, if ever I let you and your little ones go! Look, you have some evil purpose in mind. **11** No! Go, the men among you, and serve the Lord, for that is what you are asking." And they were driven out from Pharaoh's presence.

12 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts, so that they may come upon the land of Egypt and eat every plant in the land, all that the hail has left." **13** So Moses stretched out his staff over the land of Egypt, and the Lord brought an east wind upon the land all that day and all that night. When it was morning, the east wind had brought the locusts. **14** The locusts came up over all the land of Egypt and settled on the whole country of Egypt, such a dense swarm of locusts as had never been before, nor ever will be again. **15** They covered the face of the whole land, so that the land was darkened, and they ate all the plants in the land and all the fruit of the trees that the hail had left. Not a green thing remained, neither tree nor plant of the field, through all the land of Egypt. **16** Then Pharaoh hastily called Moses and Aaron and said, "I have sinned against the Lord your God, and against you. **17** Now therefore, forgive my sin, please, only this once, and plead with the Lord your God only to remove this death from me." **18** So he went out from Pharaoh and pleaded with the Lord. **19** And the Lord turned the wind into a very strong west wind, which lifted the locusts and drove them into the Red Sea. Not a single locust was left in all the country of Egypt. **20** But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the people of Israel go. **21** Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, a darkness to be felt." **22** So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was pitch darkness in all the land of Egypt three days. **23** They did not see one another, nor did anyone rise from his place for three days, but all the people of Israel had light where they lived. **24** Then Pharaoh called Moses and said, "Go, serve the Lord; your little ones also may go with you; only let your flocks and your herds remain behind." **25** But Moses said, "You must also let us have sacrifices and burnt offerings, that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God. **26** Our livestock also must go with us; not a hoof shall be left behind, for we must take of them to serve the Lord our God, and we do not know with what we must serve the Lord until we arrive there." **27** But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let them go. **28** Then Pharaoh said to him, "Get away from me; take care never to see my face again, for on the day you see my face you shall die." **29** Moses said, "As you say! I will not see your face again."

Summary:

God brings swarms of locusts for the eighth plague. They destroyed the land. Destroyed the trees and the crops. Pharaoh argues with Moses and Aaron on who they would be able to take if he released Israel. Once again, Pharaoh goes to Moses and Aaron and begs that they plead to God to end the plague of Locusts. They oblige and God ends the plague. But since Pharaoh still refuses to let all of Israel go, God hits Egypt with a plague of darkness. It was pitch black for three whole days. Pharaoh agrees that all people can be freed but continues to argue with Moses and Aaron over the animals and livestock. Pharaoh sends them away in anger.

Bottom Line:

God did not send Moses to free some of Israel. God sent Moses to free the men, the women, the children, and all of the animals of Israel. God will prove to us again and again that He is Lord via sign and wonders, miracles, and his love. If He didn't love us, He would not have sent Moses to free all of his people from Egypt, and He would have not sent His son to die on the cross for us.