"No Straw"
Exodus 5 -6:1

Reminder: 4:29-31, [29] "Moses and Aaron brought together all the elders of the Israelites, [30] and Aaron told them everything the LORD had said to Moses. He also performed the signs before the people, [31] and they believed. And when they heard that the LORD was concerned about them and had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped." (Exod. 4:29-31 NIV)

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v. 1 Q. "Afterward"…see above…what did Moses and Aaron do?

A.

1. Moses and Aaron went to _____.

Note: Exodus 3:18 said they were to take the _____. They did not. Why? Perhaps they were too fearful or perhaps Moses and Aaron decided to go alone.

2. They _____ a message from Yahweh, the God of Israel.

Note: Instead of "_____" Moses uses the term "_____" which was probably unfamiliar to Pharoah.

3. The message is, "Let my people _____."

Note: Moses does not use the "_____" ("Let us go. please") but the "_____" ("Send us away"). In other words, Moses is not _____; he's _____ – which was not the plan. Ironically, Pharaoh would end up doing the latter.

4. Moses and Aaron were to _____ it (three days) but they didn't.

Note: Moses and Aaron are basically starting off with a _____liberation.

5. The purpose was to allow the Hebrews to celebrate a _____to their "god" but by then the argument was over.

Note: _____ for religious purposes was part of the Egyptian system, so this would not have been an _____request, if…it had been presented _____.

Summation: _____ obedience matters

Wrong _____
Wrong _____
Wrong _____
Wrong _____
Wrong _____
= Wrong _____

Note: The Lord _____ a corporate approach couched in understandable terms making a moderate and limited request in courteous terms.

Moses _____ an authoritarian approach alienating Pharoah with incomprehensible talk laying down absolute and unrealistic demands. No wonder he would _____.

v. 2 Q. What was Pharoah's response?

A. There are _____ ways of taking Pharoah's response:

1. Pharoah, in earnest, did not _____ that God of the Hebrews. It was not in his divine _____. So why should he pay heed to him?

2. Pharoah did _____ the god of the Hebrews but is just willfully _____.

Both may be true. Both yield the same _____. Pharoah will not let the Hebrews go.

v. 3 Q. Oh…now what does Moses and Aaron say?

A.

1. Moses and Aaron resort to what and how they were _____ to present this request. Cp. 3:18

2. Unfortunately, it sounds more like a second chance _____ than the authoritative voice it was first intended.

3. Moses and Aaron remove the _____ threat and now focus on the _____threat if they don't go out to the wilderness. It's like an uncomfortable breakup – "It's not you…it's me."

v. 4 Q. What does Pharoah view this request as being?

A. Pharoah views this as a _____ to get out of work. Request _____. Case closed.

v. 5 Q. What two things does Pharoah bring out in this conversation?

A.

1. The Hebrews are _____.

Note: This may imply that the Egyptians are _____ dependent upon them as a work force or…it may be referring to the prior Pharaoh's _____ that they may revolt and side with Egypt's enemies. Both are valid.

2. Moses and Aaron _____ them to stop or slow their work.

v. 6 Q. Pharoah took immediate action. What did he do?

A.

1. He stopped providing _____ for the sun kilned bricks.

Note: Straw is not _____ for making bricks, e.g. Kenya, but it serves to strengthen it as a _____ agent and through its _____ – it makes the bricks harder [acid release].

2. This _____ them to use part of their time scavenging the fields for straw.

3. The _____ is on - they were _____to keep the same daily quota.

4. They are _____ accused of being lazy. They weren't the ones who _____ this mess.

5. The presumed _____ were designed so that:

   a. work would be _____ _____ and

   b. they wouldn't _____ to the hope Moses and Aaron were bringing. [lies]

vv. 10-11 Q. What happened next?

A.

1. The slave drivers and overseers _____ the command – no more straw; same quota.

2. The phrase, "This is what Pharoah says," can be construed as an _____ to parallel his god status with Yahweh, i.e. "This is what the LORD says…"

vv. 13-14 Q. What were the results?

A.

1. The slave drivers kept _____ them to keep up the quota of bricks.

2. They slave drivers _____ the Israelite overseers for not demanding more output.

vv. 15-16 Q. How did the Israelite overseers respond?

A.

1. The Israelite foremen get an audience with Pharaoh to offer a direct _____.

2. It is _____ that they don't know of the conversation that Moses and Aaron had with Pharoah, hence the question, "Why are you doing this?"

3. The foremen recount their _____ and the _____ expectations placed upon them.

4. The foremen lay _____ at the Egyptians. (?)

Note: The language of this last point, i.e., "the blame is with your own people" is _____ to translate. It could mean:

1. The Egyptian _____against the Hebrews caused this…somehow.

2. Rashi translates this, "and this thing brings sin upon your people" implying that this is _____ fault.

vv. 17-18 Q. What was Pharoah's response?

A.

1. The same _____ is thrown at them as was found in response to Moses and Aaron and their first unsuccessful encounter (cf. 5.8) – "you're _____."

2. Pharoah repeats the _____ of Moses – to go out and worship – as a _____ pretense for time off.

   Note: If we are following the narrative, they must have been asking themselves, "_____did we ever ask for this?"

3. Pharoah _____ _____ on the quota and the cessation of government provided straw – "get your own."

v. 19 Q. What did the foremen realize?

A.

vv. 20-21 Q. Describe the foremen's encounter with Moses and Aaron?

A.

1. Moses and Aaron heard they had gone to Pharoah and were _____for them.

2. The foremen pronounced a _____ upon them.

3. They conveyed the status of "_____" or "a _____" that came about because of Moses and Aaron.

4. The foremen accused them of _____ putting a sword in the hands Pharoah and his officials [giving them a _____ to kill them].

vv. 22 -23 Q. What did Moses do? How did he respond?

A.

1. Moses didn't _____ with the foremen. He went to the _____ – the Lord.

2. Moses _____ God – fairly or unfairly.

3. He "_____" why the Lord sent him.

Note: Sometimes questions are really _____ – as is the case. This is a "I told you this would happen!" "This is why I didn't want to go but _____ wouldn't listen."

4. This whole thing is a _____. Things have become _____ for the Hebrews.

5. This did not turn into a _____ mission at all (like I planned).

v. 6.1 Q. How does the Lord answer Moses' charges?

A.

1. God _____ (sort of).

   a. He doesn't answer the "_____ on His people" question.

b. He doesn't answer the "I told _____ so" and "why _____?" question.

2. God does answer the "What is the _____ picture here?" question.

a. "_____…you will see." God's plan needed for things to go _____ so that phase two could begin.

b. God's _____ will force Pharoah to let the Hebrews go.

Note: _____ God versus _____ god. The ultimate confrontation.

c. God's _____ will force Pharaoh to drive the Hebrews out of the land.

Application Questions:

Q. How does Pharoah's question, "Who is Yahweh…?" still resonate today in context?

A.

Q. How does increased difficulty bring release to other divine assignments?

A.

Q. Speak to the expression, "It will probably get worse before it gets better." What does it really mean?

A.

Q. How does Jesus' parable of the seeds, e.g., the rocky ground, (Matt. 13:20-21), connect with our story? Our…story….

20 "The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy.
21 But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away." (Matt. 13:20-21 NIV)

A.

Q. Read Psalm 13. What should we do in times of waiting, in times of frustration…with God?

A.

Q. Read Isaiah 55:9. How does this help us in our times of waiting, in times of frustration…with God?

9 "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. (Isa. 55:9 NIV)

A.

Q. Read Isaiah 40:13-14. How does this confront our pride when confronting God?

13 "Who can fathom the Spirit[1] of the LORD, or instruct the LORD as his counselor?
14 Whom did the LORD consult to enlighten him, and who taught him the right way? Who was it that taught him knowledge, or showed him the path of understanding?" (Isa. 40:13-14 NIV)

A.