

The Showdown Begins

Insights on Exodus 7:1-25

Pastor Dave Nichols, Grace Point Church, November 6, 2016

The Showdown Begins...

Some things to think about:

(Exodus 7:1-25, 2 Corinthians 2:2-3, Romans 1:21-32, 2 Timothy 3:1-9)

1. **What (g)od am I...**

2. **Obedience is still obedience...**

3. **Given enough time God will give us...**

How to know which (g)od we are following:

(Matthew 7:21-29, Matthew 19:16-26, Mark 8:34-38)

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This weeks discussion guide:

Welcome to week 9 of our Small Group Session!

I pray as we have journeyed together through Exodus, that you have been encouraged and challenged to be more like Jesus. Next week is the last week of our Fall quarter of small groups.

Getting Started:

1. This past week we had one of the best rivalries in baseball ever lived out in the World Series between the Indians and the Cubs. This past Sunday we saw the showdown between God and Pharaoh begin. Rivalries are always a part of life. Tell of one of your favorite rivalries you have had. Was it a team your were on? A professional team you root for? Why did you like that rivalry so much?

2. Sometimes we need questions just for fun, and to get to know the other people in our group a little bit better. In that spirit...Would you rather?

Be a miserable genius or...a happy moron?

Be fluent in all languages or...a master of every musical instrument?

Be stuck in a broken elevator or...stuck on a broken ski lift?

Quick Review: Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

Digging Deeper:

1. This weekend we heard that obeying what God calls us to do can actually end in defeat. Those aren't easy words to hear for any of us. How do the following verses help us keep moving forward even when it seems like doing what God calls us to do has a negative result?

- Romans 8:28
- Romans 8:35, 38-39
- Philippians 4:12-13

2. How we live our life communicates to others who God is. It is a great reminder that none of us live in a vacuum and that our actions and attitudes do make a difference. Fortunately, as a follower of Jesus, God's Spirit is at work in our lives to help make that happen. How does **Galatians 5:22-23** describe what the spirit wants to do through us as individuals and a church to impact our world for Jesus?

3. When God created us He gave us the ability to think, create, and choose. This is part of what it means to be made in the image of God. The problem we have is the reality that sin has tarnished our hearts. Romans 3:10-12 says, "*None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.*"

God wants to transform our hearts, but he will not force himself upon us to change. In fact, we saw this past week that given enough time, God will give us the direction of our hearts. Why do you think a lot of people refuse to let God change their

hearts? If God were to cement your heart right now, where would you say your heart is? Seeking God? Far from Him?

4. This past weekend Dave talked about being humble as one of the tests that we can use to know what God we are showing to the world around us. In our 3YD reading we just finished the book of Job. Throughout the book of Job we hear Job complaining to God about everything happening in his life. Finally we see God's response in chapters 38-41. Briefly skim over God's response in those chapters.

After skimming God's response, why do you think God responded to Job in this way? How does the attitude of humility play a factor in the way God responds to Job? How can God's response to Job shape the way we view God?

5. Dave's last point this past Sunday was the need for obedience. Obedience is truly the only proper response to a Holy God. Share with your group an area where you feel God is calling you to be obedient. What is holding you back? How are you living it out?

Wrapping Up:

Based on last week's message and our discussion, is there any specific application that God might be prompting you to live out?