

MOSES – LIFE OF DESTINY #13 “Using Authority”

Exodus 8:16-19

Moses faces resistance by Pharaoh. The answer is the rod of authority: Using authority is a key to being a man of God.

Exodus 8:16-19 ¹⁶So the Lord said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch out your rod, and strike the dust of the land, so that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt.’” ¹⁷And they did so. For Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod and struck the dust of the earth, and it became lice on man and beast. All the dust of the land became lice throughout all the land of Egypt. ¹⁸Now the magicians so worked with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not. So there were lice on man and beast. ¹⁹Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh’s heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, just as the Lord had said.

I. THE EQUIPPING OF AUTHORITY

A. The work of God is a supernatural work: You cannot do a supernatural work with natural power

1. We are not supernatural: So God has to give us His supernatural power

a. **Exodus 4:1-4** ¹Then Moses answered and said, “But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, ‘The LORD has not appeared to you.’” ²So the LORD said to him, “What is that in your hand?” He said, “A rod.” ³And He said, “Cast it on the ground.” So he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it. ⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, “Reach out your hand and take it by the tail” (and he reached out his hand and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand),

1. An ordinary stick becomes supernatural: God allows Moses to use His power

2. This is the principle of authority: The right to use someone else’s power

a. A skinny policeman can put his hand up in the road and big trucks will stop: It’s the power behind him!

b. **Luke 9:1** Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases.

3. Moses rod a visible picture of prayer: When he lifted it up to heaven - the power of heaven came down

a. **V16-17** ¹⁶So the Lord said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch out your rod, and strike the dust of the land, so that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt.’” ¹⁷And they did so. For Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod and struck the dust of the earth, and it became lice on man and beast. All the dust of the land became lice throughout all the land of Egypt.

1. 6x specifically Moses or Aaron lifted up the rod – and supernatural judgment came

B. This tells us you must rely on the supernatural power of God to do God’s will

1. You need to develop revelation and faith concerning spiritual authority

2. You need to learn how to pray: Get good at releasing supernatural power into situations

II. THE RESISTANCE OF HELL

A. The reason we need supernatural power: The enemy will resist/fight God’s will!

1. When Moses tells Pharaoh to let God’s people go – he pushes back!

a. **Exodus 7:11-12** ¹¹But Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers; so the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. ¹²For every man threw down his rod, and they became serpents. But Aaron’s rod swallowed up their rods.

1. This had to mess with Moses’ head: Pharaoh fights back! I see your snake and I raise you!

2. The point of this is to intimidate you: This could get ugly for us!

a. Sickness/things break/financial reversals/lack of sleep/mental oppression

B. The lesson of Pharaoh: The enemy is stubborn!

1. The enemy does not want to let go of people: He does not want God to rule!

a. **Exodus 7:13** And Pharaoh’s heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, as the LORD had said.

1. The word harden: To stiffen the neck – stubbornness; Refusal to listen/obey/surrender

b. 8x Pharaoh hardened his heart c. 5x Pharaoh’s heart grew hard

2. The point of stubborn resistance is to discourage us: It’s never gonna change!

a. The enemy stubbornly resists so you get discouraged and quit trying to make him let go!

III. PRESSING THROUGH

A. Moses didn’t know how many plagues there were going to be: We know there were 10!

1. All he knew is that Pharaoh kept hardening his heart

2. But God promises that the resistance of hell is ultimately no match for the power He gives us

a. **Matthew 28:18** And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

b. **Revelation 1:18** I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

c. **Luke 9:1** Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases.

3. We have to press it through: You can’t lose if you don’t quit!