

The Compromises Of Pharaoh

Introduction. When God spoke to Moses from the burning bush, He said He would send Moses to Pharaoh to bring His people out of Egypt (Exodus 3:10). Armed with three miracles as signs to prove that God had sent him and Aaron as His spokesmen, Moses appeared before the Israelites and convinced them that God had sent him to deliver them from Egyptian oppression.

When Moses appeared before Pharaoh, he asked, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice and let Israel go?" (Exodus 5:2). Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let Israel leave. When he did this, God brought upon the Egyptians ten terrible plagues. During the fourth plague of flies over the land, Pharaoh offered two compromises. During the eighth plague of locusts, Pharaoh offered another compromise. While the ninth plague, darkness, was over the land, Pharaoh offered the fourth compromise. Moses rejected all of them. While compromise is the acceptance of lower than desirable standards, it really is simply changing the question to fit the answer. These compromises reflect perfectly what Satan wants you to do now.

I. ***"Go ye, sacrifice to your God in the land" (Exodus 8:25)***

- A. Just as Pharaoh did not want Israel to leave Egypt, neither does Satan want people to leave the world today (2 Timothy 4:10).
- B. Pharaoh knew he had something good with his free labor. Like Pharaoh, Satan does not want to lose his servants (Romans 6:16-18; 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1).
- C. It would be an abomination to God if they offered the Egyptian sacrifices, and an abomination to the Egyptians if they offered to God their own sacrifices. Therefore, they had to leave the land. Compromise is about giving partial obedience to God's commands. But commitment and obedience to God cannot be negotiated. When it comes to obeying God, half measures will not work.

II. ***"I will let you go ... only ye shall not go very far away" (Exodus 8:28)***

- A. They wanted to go three days into the wilderness to sacrifice, but Pharaoh knew that, the closer he kept Israel, the more power he had. Surely, Satan feels the same way today, hoping that if we leave the world, we will not go very far.
- B. Some make this compromise and stay just as close to the world as they can (John 15:19; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17). There are sinners who, when convicted, repent of their sins, but they do not let them get far away. When the fear is over, they return to them again.

C. It is becoming more common to hear of Christians openly going to “R” rated movies; listening to music with profane and sexually explicit lyrics; using crude language; engaging in social drinking; playing the lottery and other forms of gambling; attending dances; and dressing in short shorts, tight jeans, and revealing tops. Furthermore, sacrifice and devotion are lacking, with ball games, concerts, recreation, work, and school activities given priority over worship assemblies. Because pulpits are silent, and elders and parents look the other way, young Christians are living lives that are barely different to those of their worldly classmates and peers. Devotion is relegated to a superficial profession of faith, with little transformation of life. There is not a problem when you put the ship in the water, but when the water gets into the ship (1 John 3:10).

III. ***“Go now ye that are men ...” (Exodus 10:11)***

- A. Pharaoh agreed to let the men go knowing that, if the women and children stayed, the men would return.
- B. Satan knows that, if families work and worship together, it is harder to ensnare them with temptation. But a divided family is a prime target for Satan’s work (Matthew 12:25). He is a sworn enemy of early holiness in children, knowing how destructive it is to his kingdom (Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Ecclesiastes 12:1; Luke 2:52; Colossians 3:20).

IV. ***“Go ye ... only let your flocks and your herds be stayed” (Exodus 10:24)***

- A. When God seeks a man, He wants all of him and everything he has (Matthew 16:24; 22:37; Luke 9:57-62).
- B. Pharaoh knew that if the Israelites left their possessions in Egypt they would have to return. The Israelites could not survive in the wilderness without food. God calls on us to leave the world and follow Him with everything we have with faith that He will care and provide for us (Matthew 6:25-34; 19:16-30).
- C. We rise to the demands of God’s will, for He will not condescend to the requirements of our lusts (Jeremiah 15:19).

Conclusion. Back in 1931, Irving Thalberg of MGM decided he wanted to buy the film rights to Tarzan, written by Edgar Rice Burroughs. So Thalberg sent Sam Marx to negotiate with Burroughs, telling Marx not to spend more than \$100,000, an extraordinarily large sum in those days. Marx contacted Burroughs and asked how much he wanted for the film rights. “\$100,000,” said Burroughs. When Marx offered him \$25,000, Burroughs walked out of the meeting. However, Marx and Burroughs continued to negotiate throughout the summer. Burroughs eventually settled for \$40,000.

After signing the contract, Burroughs admitted that he had wanted MGM and Thalberg to make the picture so badly, they could have had it for nothing if they had insisted. "Mr. Burroughs," replied Marx, "If you had held out, you would have gotten \$100,000!"

You cannot compromise with sin and conquer it at the same time. If you compromise, you will have fleeting pleasures (Hebrews 11:24-26), but you will give up your living hope of an incorruptible inheritance (1 Peter 1:3-4).