

Application Guide: “When Doing Right Turns Out Wrong” (Ex. 5:1-6:9)

July 31st, 2005: Rob Loy, a long-time member of College Park, walked through the account of Moses and Aaron’s first encounter with Pharaoh and its consequences. After a brief overview of Moses’ life, Rob presented a message that not only taught that obedience does not always result in personal success, but that God’s perspective of our circumstances is often radically different than our own.

1. *God’s ways are not our ways.* We make a mistake when we assume God operates by our rules and must fit into what we deem to be logical...The Bible is FULL of stories of God acting in ways that make no sense to man.
 - a. Consider the type of man (80 yr.-old Moses) God chose to accomplish his purposes. What are some ways our culture – and the church – views leadership potential in a way that is contradictory to God’s ways or what we see in the Bible? What is comforting and encouraging to you about the example of Moses?
 - b. What are some ways or situations you are personally struggling with the fact that God’s purposes and plans work out different from your own? In what ways do you try to put God in a box and make him cater to your own interests?
 - c. Has there ever been a time in your life when you felt like you were obeying God and yet your circumstances grew worse? What did God teach you as a result of this trial? What promises of God did you have to focus on to help you keep living for him?

2. *God’s perspective is not our perspective.* His perspective on our lives is from an eternity not bound by time. God understands that this life is not all there is – when eternity is the goal, trials on this earth have a different look.
 - a. How differently would Moses have reacted if he could have seen the events through God’s eyes? Would he have believed his suffering at the hands of Pharaoh and the Israelites was worth it?
 - b. Why does God *not* reveal his perspective to us? What good is in the fact that we are blind to God’s perspective? How does this bring further glory to God?
 - c. Is it possible for us to know God’s mind on our circumstances (cf. Ps. 16:7-8, 11; Eph; 6:6; 1 Thess. 4:3-8; 5:16-18; 1 Pet. 4:2). Are there areas of our lives in which it is possible to have God’s perspective (cf. 1 Cor. 1:11-16)? What can we do to (as much as is humanly possible) see our life through God’s eyes?

3. *This life is not about our happiness.* God is far more concerned with our faith than our happiness. Those who aim at their own happiness never find it – those who aim for God’s glory find true contentment and joy and an eternal happiness that dwarfs anything on this earth (cf. Ps. 37:4).¹
 - a. What are some areas of life in which you have bought into the idea that your happiness, comfort, and safety is of utmost importance? What about your perspective needs to change in these areas? Do you really believe that suffering for God is better than personal happiness?
 - b. When is it easiest for you to think about yourself and your own needs more than God’s glory? What can we do to better live life with God’s priorities in the center rather than our own?

¹ As C.S. Lewis said, “Aim at heaven and you will get earth ‘thrown in.’ Aim at earth and you will get neither.”