

"See What I Will Do"**FROM LAST WEEK:**

- WHAT TO KNOW:** 1) God's thoughts and ways and timing are not the same as ours.
 2) Therefore God sometimes makes things worse, even things we are really wanting him to make better!

He has his reasons, and sometimes says something like "Watch this."

[Red Green: "No good thing happens after a man says, "Watch this!"] **Numbers 23:19** God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?

NOTE: Moses *needed* to see something from God: **Exodus 5:22-23** Then Moses turned to the Lord and said, "O Lord, why have you done evil to this people? Why did you ever send me? For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has done evil to this people, and you have not delivered your people at all."

So God says, "Watch this!"

Exodus 6:1-12 But the Lord said to Moses, "**Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh**; for with a strong hand he will send them out, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land." God spoke to Moses and said to him, "I am the Lord. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by my name the LORD I did not make myself known to them. I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as sojourners. Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant. Say therefore to the people of Israel, '**I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment.** I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and **you shall know that I am the LORD your God**, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. I am the LORD.' "

Moses spoke thus to the people of Israel, but they did not listen to Moses, because of their broken spirit and harsh slavery.

So the LORD said to Moses, "Go in, tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the people of Israel go out of his land."

But Moses said to the LORD, "Behold, the people of Israel have not listened to me. How then shall Pharaoh listen to me, for I am of uncircumcised lips?" Good question from Moses, and God's answer: " 'How then shall Pharaoh listen to you?' He won't! Not right away! I'll see to that!"

Exodus 7:1-13 **And the Lord said to Moses, "See,** I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron shall be your prophet. You shall speak all that I command you, and your brother Aaron shall tell Pharaoh to let the people of Israel go out of his land. But **I will harden Pharaoh's heart**, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, **Pharaoh will not listen to you**. Then I will lay my hand on Egypt and bring my hosts, my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great acts of judgment. **The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD**, when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring out the people of Israel from among them."

Moses and Aaron did so; they did just as the LORD commanded them... Still Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and **he would not listen to them, as the LORD had said.**

Now this is interesting: Moses really needed to have his faith strengthened. He needed God to show him something. God does: He shows him failure! So here is what to know...

WHAT TO KNOW:

1. **God is entirely in control of all the people in the world.** And of all the characters, all the actors in the drama of *your* life. We need to know this.

In this case, Moses was shown "Failure with a purpose," but there is always a purpose!

Exodus 7:3-4 I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, Pharaoh will not listen to you. Then I will lay my hand on Egypt and bring my hosts, my people the children of Israel,

out of the land of Egypt by great acts of judgment. In this case, Moses was shown “Failure with a purpose,” but there is always a purpose! “Great acts of judgment” The fact of the matter was this: God had planned to show his power to all concerned with ten great displays. Pharaoh was the bad guy that made the displays appropriate. “Great acts of judgement” Pharaoh wasn’t quite stubborn enough, so God kept hardening his heart. If Moses’ attempts to lead the people out of slavery had succeeded, the acts of judgment would have come to an end sooner rather than later.

We need to know that impacting a person’s heart (that is, his/her passions and desires) is standard procedure for God. (“We’re praying for an early conversion”)

“Context”

Acts 17:28 ‘In him we live and move and have our being’

Hebrews 1:3 ... he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

Even kings!

Proverbs 21:1 The *king’s* heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; he turns it wherever he will.

Even us!

Philippians 2:13 ... it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

So then secondly, in regard to things in our lives that go from bad to worse.

2. Any problem we experience is a problem that God could have prevented but chose not to.

e.g. **The ignorance of the new king** about Joseph (**Exodus 1:8**) God could have had him informed and didn’t.
The cruelty of Pharaoh that ordered the murder of all the male newborns...
The mindset of Moses that prompted him to beat to death the cruel Egyptian slave master...
Think what could have happened instead!

And in your life ... **the raw materials** that have been shaped to become the pieces of your most bitter disappointments

WHAT TO DO:

a) **Look to see what God is doing in and/or through the people in your life.**

Exodus 6:1-12 God said to Moses, “**Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh**; for with a strong hand he will send them out, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land ... “I am the Lord ... I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant.”

Psalms 103:1-15 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and **forget not all his benefits**... The Lord works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. ... He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.

And look to see what God is doing in your own life! Some things we know for sure, for they are always true:

Romans 8:28-29 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. → **Christlike character**

John 15:1-2 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. → **Christlike “fruitfulness”**

b) **Keep a close watch on what’s going on in your own heart.**

Because while God remains sovereign over all the details of every life, we each remain responsible for all the details of our life. **Proverbs 4:23** Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.

Don’t be confused about this! What we do and what we fail to do makes a difference! **It’s never never never**

correct to conclude: *Since God is in control of everything, it doesn't matter what we actually do.* It ALWAYS matters!!!

Romans 6:15-18 Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

Galatians 5:1,13 For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery... For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

1 Timothy 4:16 Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

So how DO we keep this kind of close watch on ourselves? How DO we watch over our hearts with diligence?

- ⇒ **NOTE:** Your heart is the sum total of all your loves and hatreds, so be monitoring what it is you love and loathe. It is a VERY significant part of your life. It is a significant part of your Christlikeness. (**Hebrews 1:9**)
- ⇒ Do things that strengthen your righteous loves and loathings. Spend time with people, read books, watch movies, go places that help you to more and more intensely love what Christ loves and loathe what Christ loathes. You need to know yourself to know what affects you in helpful ways.

e.g.

- ⇒ Start refusing to do things weaken your righteous loves and loathings. Don't spend more time than you should with people, don't read books, don't watch movies, don't go places that hinder you from more and more intensely loving what Christ loves and loathing what Christ loathes. [You need to know yourself to know what affects you in disastrous ways.]

e.g.

NEXT WEEK (October 25): ***"Enough of God's Thunder"*** [Exodus 7:14-11:10]