

“When Delays Happen”

Date: February 18/19, 2012

Speaker: Pastor Keith Smith speaking

Series: Getting Somewhere When The Going is Tough

Moses follows God’s plan

1. Tell my people:
“I am freeing you to move into what I have promised you”
2. Tell Pharaoh: *“Let my people go”*

The people’s response:

“Moses and Aaron brought together all the elders of the Israelites, and Aaron told them everything the LORD had said to Moses. He also performed the signs before the people, and they believed. And when they heard that the LORD was concerned about them and had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped.” - Exodus 4:29-31

Pharaoh’s response:

*“Pharaoh said, ‘Who is the LORD, that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD and I will not let Israel go . . . Go and get your own straw wherever you can find it, but your work will not be reduced at all.’”
- Exodus 5:2,11*

Moses’ response:

“Moses returned to the LORD and said, ‘O Lord, why have you brought trouble upon this people? Is this why you sent me?’” - Exodus 5:22

God’s response:

““Therefore, say to the Israelites: ‘I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. And I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the LORD.’” - Exodus 6:6-8

9 Delays

Nile → Frogs → Mosquitos → Flies → Boils → Livestock Plague →
Hail → Locusts → Darkness

Why Did 9 Delays Happen?

Delays are opportunities for

1. God Rejectors
2. God Trusters

For God rejectors, delays are opportunities God uses to reveal Himself again and again

DELAYS REVEALED:

1. The rightness of trusting God alone
 - The 9 plagues exposed the inadequacy of trusting false gods
2. Pride and selfishness are a dead end destination
 - God's warnings
 - Jesus' woes
3. That God ultimately lets people have what their hearts insist on
 - Pharoah
 - Egyptians

"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." - 2 Peter 3:9

Delays are opportunities for God trusters to grow into freedom one step at a time

1. Trusting God deeper with each delay is the only way we discover How completely trustworthy He is

Discover his care amidst catastrophe

- No swarms of flies in Goshen (8:22)
- No livestock die from plague in Goshen (9:9)
- No hail destroys in Goshen (9:26)

Discover how His Word prepares you

- Before each plague – preparation
- During the delays – promises

2. Perseverance through delays grows us to handle the fulfillment of His plans
 - Moses at the beginning of Exodus – "I can't"
 - Moses at end of Exodus – "Yes, we can"
 - Moses at the Red Sea – "The Lord will fight for you" (14:14)
3. Daily choosing to move ahead in God's plan makes you permanently unstoppable