



## Sermon Notes from 31 March

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### When Your Plan Backfires (*Exodus 5:1-21*)

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Disappointment is rooted in hope. The more you hope for something, the bigger the disappointment when it is not fulfilled. Believing in God allows us to depend on His plans and not ours. However, like Moses, even after stepping out in faith and obedience, we still can face disappointment. Exo. 5:1-21 - We draw out 3 truths that helps us deal with it.

#### 3 Antidotes for Dealing with Disappointments

##### **1) Trust in God's Timing (Exo. 5:1-9)**

We live in a culture of instant gratification where everything is expected to be immediate. As such, we impose our timeline on God. He does not work this way. The presence of God does not guarantee immediate results. Our heavenly Father knows better than us, and His timing is perfect. Trust in God's timing and grow in faith towards Him (Gen. 15:6)!

##### **2) Submit to God's Plan (Exo. 5:10-14)**

The Hebrews, having suffered much under the oppression of Pharaoh, cried out to God for freedom. God responded to their cries, but things only seem to get worse (vv10-14). When our plans fail, remember that God's plan usually does not unfold the way we expect. God's ways are higher than ours (Is. 55:9) and His plans are therefore far superior than ours.

Our plans are often designed to satisfy the idols of our hearts. Good desires become idols when they become louder and more powerful than God to you. It has taken over the center of your life and has become your god. Our plans seek to enthrone idols, but God's plan

seeks to enthrone Jesus. God desires for us to have an unshakable constant joy in Him. Seek to dethrone the idols in your heart and enthrone God!

##### **3) Remember God's Word (Exo. 5:15-21)**

###### 2 Lessons

#1 Division (vv20-21) - The Hebrews were blaming Moses and Aaron for their suffering and were becoming divided. A house that is divided against itself cannot stand (Mk. 3:25). God is calling us to take the step of faith and obedience towards reconciliation.

#2 Forgetfulness (vv20-21) - The Hebrews had forgotten the promises of God (Exo. 3:17, 20-22). The best way to remember is to read God's Word. Press on in prayer and faith to read His Word!

God is the source of all power and the answer to our prayers. What we should pursue is not the absence of trials but the presence of God. He is more concerned for our sanctification than our comfort. Moses had forgotten God's promise (Exo. 4:21). God promises tribulation in our lives (Jn. 16:33) to lead us to lack nothing (Jm. 1:2-4). Even though the Hebrews knew Pharaoh to be their sole oppressor, they still cried out to him instead of God, the Father (Exo. 5:15). We are like the foremen who betrayed God for a pile of straws.

Despite our unfaithfulness, God sent His faithful Son to save us. Despite our betrayal, Jesus took our place on the cross for our salvation - the infinitely priceless gift of eternal life. In your disappointment, trust in God's timing. Submit to His plans! Remember His words, for He is faithful!