

# EXCUSED ABSENCE

Exodus 5:1-6:27

Calvary Church of Pacific Palisades

March 20, 2011 ♦ Sunday Morning Worship

## Introduction:

Today we return to Moses story in Exodus where we find him requesting an excused absence. Ever requested an excused absence? Sick, memorial, court, doctors appointments, car repairs ... Sometimes, we request them, just to avoid getting out of doing work ... get really creative. FOUR Christmases ... couple who used international relief ministry (inoculating children in Burma) as excuse for not visiting divorced parents on Christmas Day. Really flying to Fiji ... fog grounds them. Sometimes excused absences are simply excuses for avoiding something we do not want to do. Not so with Moses request "Let my people go!" not so the people could get out of work ... he is requesting a religious Holiday ... spiritual pilgrimage ... worship God. First step in the process of deliverance.

Please open your Bibles to Exodus 5 ... Page 42.

READ 5:1 Moses asks Pharaoh for an excused absence. No trickery, reasonable request. To worship a non-Egyptian god they would have to leave Egypt. Ancient Egyptian records found ... proof that kept absences for royal workers. Reasons were given. Worship fests usually required pilgrimage, celebrate in holy place. Hajj, Jerusalem.

READ 5:2 Because Pharaoh was a god (regarded as divine), request was a threat to his sovereignty. He knew and respected the God's of Egypt, but he had never heard of YHWH. "I don't know your God." Pharaoh ... "You've got to be kidding, not another holiday!" So he did what he normally did, made things harder on anyone who was making demands.

READ 5:6-9 Bricks without straw were apt to fall apart? Straw is what held the brick together; without it, crumble. Quota was already hard enough to make, now almost impossible. Gleaning stubble ... part of corn or grain stalk left after harvest. Middle of the night?  
***Sometimes things have to get worse before they get better.***

5:21 People blame Moses ... 5:22,23 Moses Blames God ... "why have you brought trouble?" Moses needed to see God's power revealed more than anybody.

God responds ... by reassuring Moses of His plan for the people He loves. READ 6:1-5  
6:1 Reveals His power. 6:2,3 Reveals His name. To AlJacob, most powerful name was El Shaddai. Explain meaning of YHWH. 6:4,5 Covenant keeping God, compassionate, hears cries answers. When God makes a promise He keeps it ... when God says "I will", HE DOES.

God gives a 7-fold promise "I will" which He guarantees with His own signature. Writes at top & bottom.  
**God reassures him; reminds Moses that God's promises never fails, new every morning.**  
**Just as GOD MAKES PROMISES TO ISRAEL ... SAME GOD, who makes same promises to us.**

**Reassurance #1 God promises to deliver us ... v. 6** Three-fold expression suggesting completeness.

- **I will ... remove the burden.** Relief. ILL. Church. Lifted. Gulliver ... What is the burden you are carrying? Depression you can't shake. Injustice. Impossible situation, no power, no control.
- **I will ... free you from slavery.** Emancipation ... Remove the burden of sin ... "dominion of darkness". ILL. feel like you are in a straight jacket, bound, life-sentence. No way out.

- **I will ... redeem you and give you your life back;** ILL. Victor Hugo's Les Mis ... Valjean; 19 yrs in prison stealing bread. Released, priest gives shelter, steals silverware; caught, the priest pays the price; claims it was a gift, includes two candlesticks. The debt is satisfied. No longer an issue. Purchased, redeemed us ... bought with a price, not the Egyptians first-born, but His first-born, Jesus

**Reassurance #2 God promises that we belong to Him ... v. 7** Individuals, kingdom. Lost sense that together we are His people. Like when you get your whole family together. Longing. Incomplete.

- **I will ... adopt you as my children;** God would do this at Sinai. Belonging ...
- **I will ... be your God, your everything.** Solution to every need.

**Isaiah 41:10 So do not fear, for I am with you, do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."**

We lift our burdens up to God and He takes them from us. As we struggle, He lifts us up.

**Reassurance #3 God promises to bless us ... v. 8**

- **I will ... bring you to the land I swore to give you** (territory, purpose)

**Psalm 16:5,6 Lord, you have assigned me my portion and my cup; you have made my lot secure, the boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places, surely I have a delightful inheritance.**

- **I will ... give it all to you as a possession** (inheritance). ILL. Helen across the street.

YHWH is God's signature. Guarantees these seven promises as a binding agreement.

**YHWH ... God's name means that he is the solution to every need ... past present and future**

Conclusion:
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Crying out for deliverance ... God has heard. He is in the process of answering. Sometimes things will get worse before they get better, but you can count on Him. He is the covenant keeping God.

His covenant with you, and with us as His church is signed in blood, sealed by the Spirit and guaranteed by God's promise to complete in us the work He has begun.

Lift it up to Him, be lifted up by Him ... guide you into blessing and give peace that passes understanding.