

Sermon Reflections

Discouragement's Pitfalls (Exodus 4:27-6:1)

Summary: The pitfalls to discouragement everywhere threaten our faith. We cannot avoid them all, so how can our faith survive? Never lose sight of God, who He is and His promises.

1. The Pitfall of Selective Hearing (Exodus 4:27-31)

- Verse 30 states that “Aaron spoke all the words that the Lord had spoken to Moses”. Read Exod. 3:7-22.
 - Which parts of the message would have been most pleasing to hear? ...Most memorable?
 - What are some things the Israelites may have missed or focused too much on (“selective hearing”)?
- Selective hearing is easily identifiable in others (i.e. family members, co-workers, or even our own children); but what are some ways that we oftentimes do this with scripture? List passages of Scripture that you are often tempted to overemphasize during trials that promise comfort and blessing? Why is this dangerous?

2. The Pitfall of Man Fearing (Exodus 5:1-5)

- How did Aaron and Moses change the message they were supposed to deliver to Pharaoh? Why do you think they did this? What sin does this uncover in their hearts?
- In what ways can the gospel message get tainted with man-centered thinking? How can we avoid this pitfall as we strive to be faithful witnesses for God?
- Read Romans 1:16. How does this verse address the temptation to adjust the message to make it more palatable to the hearer?

3. The Pitfall of Serious Suffering (Exodus 5:6-14)

- Describe the hardship that the Israelites are facing? How would you have responded?
- Describe a situation where you expected God to bless you; but you found yourself in a difficult trial instead? What truths about God did you find helpful to meditate on? Give Scripture references.

4. The Pitfall of Misplaced Hopes (Exodus 5:15-18)

- Describe how the Israelites misplaced their hope? Who did they cry out to for rescue? Why?
- Consider this quote from the sermon: “Every false savior is a harsh master.” What are some examples of “false saviors” that people often turn to?
- Read Matt 11:28-30. Why do these “false saviors” never provide lasting comfort and why is it infinitely better to turn to Christ?

5. The Pitfall of Forgetting Patience (Exodus 5:19-6:1)

- How would you encourage a new/young believer struggling through a long trial who has lost sight of God's goodness? Give Scripture references.