Exodus 5:1-23 Sunday 9/6/2026

I. Introduction and Ministry Overview

The Lord led me to Exodus. A preacher contacted me last week when we were down in a prison revival in Arkansas. We rejoiced because 27 men got saved at the Cummins Unit. That prison has over 2,000 men in it, 70% of whom are lifers. We had multiple teaching and preaching services going on during the week last week, and also witnessed all through the units. We had a great response from the men, and as I said, 27 were saved. I appreciate the pastor who contacted us. The connection was actually Brother Schmidt's brother in Florida, Dan Schmidt, who helps us throughout the year and has been helping us for a couple of years now. He does a great job preaching with us and volunteering in the prison. We've seen a lot of souls saved and have had good fellowship together. He referred us to the church here.

It's a good crowd around here this morning. I don't know about you, but this morning I got up and said, "Lord, it is going to be a good day." I am traveling with another missionary, Brother Eric Peters. He has gone over to Leavenworth to the military prison. They are going to do a meeting there in the fall, but they have to bring the material in prior, usually months prior. He was with me in Arkansas and is going to help me at St. Joe, WRCC. So he traveled over to drop off some material. He has a church that supports him down in Nevada, Missouri, a little south of here, which some of you probably know. The pastor was very kind and got us a room because we were traveling through since they supported him. It pays to hang out with the right people.

The pastor took us out to a nice restaurant and then put us up at the Holiday Inn. He even let us go fishing in his pond last night. We got to fish for about two hours and caught 26 bass. You all got excited; you almost like fishing too. I was actually going down the road here, just around the corner, and saw that big old lake and all those tree stumps. I said, "Lord, You're calling me to this region, aren't You?" I like fishing; you have to have a little outlet. We had a good time.

I got up this morning and grabbed my get-ready bag. Old Brother Eric said, "Tim, you can hit the shower first, you have to go." I said, "Yeah," and I laid that thing in that bathroom. I was still trying to get my eyes working, and I looked and there were ants everywhere. I mean, just ants after ants, and they were all in my bag. I said, "Glory to God, we're going to have a good day!" I had to empty everything and was cleaning it. He asked, "What's going on?" I said, "Brother, bad deal in here." I don't know. I never had that in a nice motel like that, but they were just ants. They came from the wind. I thought, "Well, Lord, You told me early this morning to go to Exodus, and I'm not even getting into plagues, but they're getting on me."

Brother Schmidt, I was going to actually go out in my truck and bring a bunch of our material with the Rock of Ages that we give out in the prisons to let you see an example, but I went to lift the handle in the back of my truck and it broke. I said, "It's getting better and better." So if you think you have it bad, look at somebody beside you and say, "I'm so glad I don't look like you." It can always be worse. The preacher is going to be like, "Why did I get this guy up here?"

II. Personal Testimony

It is good to be saved. I got saved in March of 1995 when I was 20 years old. I was actually built in a prison, which is ironic how the Lord works in people's lives. I married my high school sweetheart right out of high school. We had been together since I was 16 and she was 14. We didn't start out, you know, I hear a lot of good testimonies where people walked in and said, "Boy, I saw that lady in church and knew I was going to marry her." I cannot even tell you where I met my wife, because it did not work out that way.

We got married, and then we had twin daughters on the way. One of them was saved. I quit a lot of things I was doing out in the world from ages 12 to 20, just drugs, alcohol, a lot of things I was tangled up in. My wife wanted me to straighten up, or she did not want to stay with me. I liked her a lot better than I did those other things, so I was struggling, trying to get my life in order. I quit a lot of things, just working, and now the responsibility of life. I had twin daughters, and I would come home and hold those little babies; they were just little bitty and holding my hand.

I was built in a prison, New Kent, Virginia. I was on a prayer shift, IBW, right out of high school. All my friends took off to the Marine Corps, and then I took off into the electrical apprenticeship. I was just miserable, though. I was just working, coming home, and then we were arguing a lot. But there was a guy on that job, his name was Herb Hamilton, and that man was full of God and a soul winner. He would go around handing out tracts, telling people about Jesus. Then I would see other guys saying they were saved, but then they were talking about going out partying on Friday and Saturday, and then going to church Sunday. I thought, "Well, I'm doing better than them, and I'm not going out partying, I'm not cheating on my wife, and I'm just working." But old Herb Hamilton, though, that man handing out those tracts and bragging on Jesus, in my heart as I watched him, there was something he had that I did not have: he had peace. He had a peace and a joy.

A friend of mine, since I was 15, had led me in a prayer and talked with me, but I was always just out in the world of sin. But long story short, old Herb kept loving on me. My mother had actually gotten saved about four years before I did, and she gave me an old King James Bible, an old family Bible. One night on the couch, my wife and I just had another fuss, and usually it was my fault. I sat on the couch crying, and I said, "I don't know how to love you, I hate life." I said, "I'm going to start reading that old Bible Mama gave me." We would go down to this little old church, Grace Baptist Church, Petersburg, Virginia. The preacher, Brother Nunley, a dear man of God, is still there. He is getting up in age, of course, with a lot of feebleness in his life now, but still just a great example in my Christian walk.

Anyways, old Preacher Nunley, we went down there just a young couple. He preached the Word, and the Holy Ghost got to dealing with me. On that day, March of 1995, riding home from work, I cannot tell you the exact time. People can maybe know the exact minute and time they got saved. I was not worried about time; I was thinking about my soul. But I did get off work at 3:30, drove an hour home, and the more I tried to wash in that shower, I just knew I was dirty on the inside. I got out of the shower that March evening, 1995, walked down that little hallway of the

house, and knelt by my little girl's baby crib. If you want to know what time, I will tell you, the sun was on top of the pine trees, so if you went by sundial, the sun was about like that, as I fell on my face by my girl's baby crib and cried out to the Lord and asked Jesus into my life. I got up a new man.

A week later, my wife, she had made a little profession as a little girl. Neither of us grew up in a Christian home. I grew up in a divorce, just wild situations, a scattered life growing up. My wife, as a three-year-old girl, watched her daddy take a shotgun and took the life of his brother in a drunken stupor. He actually did time in the old Walls prison in Nashville and got out of prison just chasing the liquor bottle to the grave. So we both had kind of shady backgrounds, but just sinners. I am glad Jesus loves sinners, aren't you?

Anyways, my wife, she had made a profession of faith. The only thing she had, no one thought she was saved, because she went to a Vacation Bible School and looked at a picture of Jesus on the wall and said, "Boy, I love Jesus." That was it. But they did not understand about being lost and needing the Lord. But the Lord worked on us, and we got saved. I hope I am not taking too long here to preach to you, but just to let you know a little bit about us.

Anyways, I got saved. I started a Bible study actually there at the house, inviting neighbors, going after folks, and a Friday night Bible study. Then I found out later as I started going to church and listening to the preacher, half the stuff I was teaching was not even right. I was just trying to get people to Jesus. Then we went full-time there. I got saved in '95. In January '96, there was a preacher, Stenant Blue. He is actually a fifth cousin to Ed Blue, who started the Rock of Ages prison ministry. Anyways, he came by our church on a Saturday night, and I was battling about preaching. The Lord dealt with me about preaching. Actually, I had been going out soul-winning with our assistant pastor, memorizing scripture, and just trying to reach folks.

Then that preacher came by, and he was preaching about the lad that had the five loaves and two small fishes. In his message, he said, "Son, he just gave all he had." I was battling about preaching, because I would even go out, we would knock doors on Saturday, and I would get on the street corner and just start quoting Luke 16. I had memorized it. Then I would just go to Amos and say, "Prepare to meet God," and I would start preaching. I would get all excited preaching, and then they said, "Well, you're a preacher." I said, "I ain't no preacher, I just don't want nobody to go to hell." But then the Lord just kept dealing with me about preaching, and I thought, "Well, I cannot preach." I said, "Man, I had D's and F's in school, always in trouble." I said, "These preachers, they know everything." I even thought, I go to church, I hear my preacher, and I said, "Man, he knows everything." Now, the longer I am saved and the more I study, I realize preachers do not know everything. Now they know a whole lot, and they ought to be, you know.

Anyways, that preacher said, "He just gave all he had," and that night I surrendered in January '96. I said, "Lord, You ain't getting much, but I will preach to everybody in Petersburg, Virginia." We thought we would stay there with our pastor, but then he moved us down to Georgia in '97. We moved by faith with a U-Haul and a couple hundred dollars, went off to Bible college, and had our twin daughters then, that is all we had, and had each other and God. Actually, what

moved me, I got a tape of my former pastor, still my current church, it was Brother Dr. Sammy Allen. You all can find him on YouTube and stuff. That old man of God just preaches half the Bible and preaches against everything that moves, and moves some things to preach against. But I love Brother Allen. We went down and went to Bible college, Faith Baptist Institute and Bible College, got a BA degree, born again degree, I call it, still trying to figure out all that stuff I am supposed to know.

III. Rock of Ages Prison Ministry

Anyways, our church, we support, I do not know, over 100 and some mission works around the country, around the world, a very mission-minded church. Our church, we support, I do not know, over a dozen or more Rock of Ages guys. One of them used to be a member of our church, and he would always invite me to go to prison with him. I would go preach at the county jail, and we would go down the streets. To be honest with you, I went through Bible college, and I kind of worked my way up in the electrical field. I was making good money over 20-something years ago, I was making over $80,000 a year, and just comfortable preaching when called on, going to church. But he would come in from prison revivals; he traveled in Florida and different places, and he would come in Sunday school so excited, telling about men getting saved in the prison, what God was doing. He would come to me at church and say, "Come go to revival." So eventually, it got to where I would see him at church, I would see him coming, I would go another way. I would get lost in it, because I thought, "Man, he is going to bug me to go to prison again." There was a part of me that thought, "Well, I get in there and they will beat me up for sure." I took Taekwondo, but I only learned enough to get whooped. The older I get, I learn that is why I pay taxes. I call 911 on you and sue you for everything you have.

Anyways, that guy, he came in, and the Lord broke my heart. They had a Rock of Ages conference over 20 years ago in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. I was sitting in Sunday school, and that brother drove all night from preaching in a prison in Florida. He got up in Sunday school and was just weeping, telling about the men getting saved. I thought, "Lord, there is something going on in prisons," and the Holy Ghost said, "Yeah, and I want you to go to that conference and meet some missionaries." So I went to a Rock of Ages national conference, and the Lord just started reeling me in. So I went to that brother, I said, "Give me your schedule." I said, "Could you use me?" I was working construction 4/10, so I could leave out Thursday night, and go be in prison Friday, Saturday, drive back in Saturday night and be at church. For a year, I volunteered in juvenile facilities and adult prisons. The Bible said my eye had affected my heart. Of course, my wife always prayed that her daddy would have gotten saved in prison if somebody would have reached him.

I volunteered for a year, and God just kept breaking my heart for the prison ministry and the needs there. I was actually riding home one evening out of Atlanta, and I got up near my house, an old farmer down the road. I pulled my little old truck over, and I sat there weeping as I looked out at the cows out in the field. All I could picture was not cattle in the field; I could picture those inmates walking in the prison yard that we had been trying to reach. I will tell you, church, that night, I was praying by my bed, and I said, "Lord, for the last year, I have been volunteering with

this ministry, and I go to work, and I am not even satisfied doing electrical anymore. All I think about is prison." I was actually working at the CDC in Atlanta, going from room to room, and in addition, we were putting in receptacles, but all I could picture was going cell to cell. That night by my bed, I said, "Lord, either give me a verse about doing this full-time or just quit burdening me. I cannot take it anymore." I got up in the bed, and the Holy Ghost said, "Open your Bible to Acts 4:4." So I got my Bible and turned to Acts 4:4, and it said:

Acts 4:4

1. Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.

I said, "Well, Lord, I am going to see 5,000 get saved." The Lord said, "That's for Me to know, but they need to hear the word to believe." So the Lord gave me the Word. I do not know, the preacher said, "You all are not satisfied unless I preach for three hours." Praise God, somebody back here said, "Not that much." Praise God.

But anyways, the Lord gave me that scripture, and I am slow. I do not know about you all, but I am slow. I would always hear different missionaries come through, and I know God can change the ministry, and God can change directions. He may change what I do next week, but so far I have a life sentence, been 22 years doing prison ministry. Anyways, I would hear a lot of missionaries come, and I knew some where they got up, "Well, God called me over here," and then six months later, "I made them know God's called me over here," and then, "No, God's called me." I thought, "God's not the author of confusion." I realize He can change, but so I did not want to be one to get up and say, "Well, God's called me" if I did not know it was God. He gave me that verse about how they need to hear the word, but I was still slow, and I was, like I say, making good money. At that time, I was bringing home about $1,800 a week, and that's 20 some years ago, that would be good money. That would be like that Filipino preacher, he said, "I am going to have him walk on the street to go, but today I just need cash."

Anyways, I was volunteering for six more months, and God really showed me. I got to studying in the book of Deuteronomy, and He told Moses, "You have dwelt in this mount long enough." And then I think another chapter, He said, "You can pass this mount long enough." The Lord said, "It's time to move on by faith, like Moses, time to move by faith." It was on a Sunday morning. As a matter of fact, if you all listen fast, I will preach fast here in a minute. But it was on a Saturday night, we had an evangelist helping our church, Fane Jordan, he is with the Lord now, and he got up and he had preached on knowing the will of God for your life on Saturday night. We had a youth meeting every Saturday night in our church, and young preachers would preach, we would have singing, and then we would have pizza or whatever. But after he preached, he got up Sunday morning though, he said, "I am preaching this morning on knowing the will of God for your life." I thought, and I hate to say this, I sat in the back, I thought, "Lord, I need help, he preached that last night." But the Holy Ghost said, "Be quiet and listen." He said, "But I am preaching another part of the will of God, it's doing the will of God." And when he said that, boy, he preached that message, and I already knew the will of God, I needed to be preaching in prison, but I did not want to do it, I did not want to step. But that morning, I stepped

out by faith, I hit the altar crying. Actually, as a matter of fact, the preacher was giving the benediction, people were leaving, shaking hands, and I was up there squalling on the altar. But I felt like the Lord put his arms around me, and I am not trying to be mystical and all, but I just felt like the Lord just kind of hugged me. But I remember what he said, he said, "I am going to take care of you and your family, go preach in prison." So we stepped out. I remember I went back to Dr. Allen, I said, "Brother Allen, God's called me to prison." He said, "Ain't no doubt about it, boy, get to it."

We stepped out. Church, Rock of Ages started in 1977 as a tape ministry. Old Dr. Ed Blue, a man of God, he preached against everything. But actually, he would go into prisons, I think Florida and Georgia, and back then, it was a tape ministry. As a matter of fact, Union CI, down there in Florida, where we actually do a lot of ministry in Florida, and the prisons, he went down there and preached, and the men in the prison just loved that old-fashioned preaching. They wanted more. Then there was a good man of God, Ron Garris, that got Brother Ed. They went in with the church out of Baldwin, Florida, Grace Baptist, and man, they went in preaching. If I am not mistaken, they had some people come from the church singing, and they had a real move of God, men getting saved in the prison, and they were giving out the Bibles. The warden said, "Something's happened here," and why? Because God settled in that place, and the Word of God was being preached, and men's lives were being changed. So Rock of Ages was birthed through a ministry of Ed Blue coming out of his church there, and Ron Garris, and in that prison. Now it is a worldwide prison ministry. Most of you, of course nowadays, with people with cell phones and internet, go to roapm.org. I was going to try to play a video, but that did not work today. Nothing is working today. I think God just likes the old-fashioned Word of God, to be honest with you. That is what Rock of Ages is. At roapm.org, if you want to go on later and look at our website, see more about the ministry.

We have guys like myself; we work on revival teams around different areas of the country, going into the prisons, preaching the gospel, usually three to four-day meetings that the prisons allow most places. We even have men on juvenile teams, going to juvenile facilities. Over the years, Rock of Ages, actually we even have public school ministry that has opened up around the country. A lot of things did get a little dampened during COVID with some of that. We have men like Brother Eric Peters who go to the military brigs, and there is only a limited amount of that since COVID; that did affect the military in different aspects, but they still have some areas around the country. Then we have men that not just the United States, they go into foreign prisons, foreign outreaches. Actually, Rock of Ages since '77 has done ministry in every state across the United States, and in every continent. We have actually, I mean, Latvia, Romania, just Australia, just around the world. Now we are not currently active in all those areas, because it takes manpower. The preacher was talking about missions, and he probably shared this old quote in missions: it takes manpower, somebody has to go; it takes money power, somebody has to give; but it takes mighty power, somebody has to get a hold of God, and we need laborers with the Rock of Ages.

Now I am from North Georgia. We have been with the Rock of Ages on the revival teams now. Last month, we did celebrate 22 years. But right now we have 17 prisons in North Florida; that is

where Brother Schmidt's brother helps us a lot. 17 prisons, we usually do those twice a year. In the prisons I coordinate, we go in, we actually have discipleship that we do in a lot of the meetings where we will set up a projector laptop, and we will teach character classes: how to deal with bitterness, how to deal with rejection, and just on and on different lessons and things that we do from the Bible based on the scriptures. We just have old-fashioned preaching, shouting, slobbering, and worshiping, and praising God. Still, hell is hot, heaven is high, and the King James Bible is God's Word. But we just preach and have a good time, and let the Word of God deal with hearts. Then we also go cell to cell. The prison we just sat down there in Arkansas, they had units that were three stories high, and you go in there, they just carry on and yell and everything, and we just go cell to cell, witnessing.

The prison, especially in Florida, people say, "Well, man, why do you pick Florida?" Florida is the third largest prison population in the United States, and plus it is a little bit closer to Mama, my wife. Most of my prisons are five to eight hours, and this trip here, I will be on about a 20-day run, prisons and churches and things, and I will be home a day and a half, and then back to a prison, and then I have a week home.

Anyways, the preacher wanted me to just tell you a little bit about our Rock of Ages. Like I said, I wish I had showed you some of that material. If I have somebody who knows how to break into my truck later, I have to show you that material, but I will work on that later. Anyways, we go in with trays that we carry in, and we go cell to cell, and we have, the way I build a tray, we have booklets for the lost man, and booklets for the saved man, and "Why be born again?" "I cannot live it," you know. "How to deal with bitterness," you know. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet," and it shows you where to find many things. We give out calendars. Two things we give out, a lot of times you go cell to cell, there might be inmates that do not want to talk to you about the Lord, and I say, "Hey, could I give you a calendar?" "Yeah, give me a calendar," you know. So we will give them a calendar, and then if they do not take a calendar, we have an address book. It is just blank where they put in their names of people, they pour it in things. So we give them those, and kind of icebreakers, you know.

Sometimes guys do not want anything; you deal with all kinds of religions. In the prisons, there are actually six different types of Muslims. I mean, you have all kinds of different beliefs, you have the Wiccans, and of course, every different religion and stuff, and even a lot of religious Baptists in there need to be saved. I preach to deacons, I preach to Independent Baptists, I preach to everybody in the world in there. I tell them the reason I preach in prison is when they start locking the preachers up, I am going to already have a whole lot of friends on the inside. I was at a church one time up in North Georgia, and a lady said, "Why are you going to preach to them bad people?" I said, "Why do you read your Bible?" She said, "Huh, what do you mean?" I said, "Well, you better be careful reading the New Testament. As an inmate wrote most of it. The Old Testament, as inmates wrote a lot of it." She got real quiet. Then I went back up there preaching too, later on after that, and she said, "Hey, won't you be our pastor?" I said, "No, ma'am, I have never pastored. I was preaching in prison." And she said, "Well, we need a pastor." I said, "Well, I would rather preach in prison, because I said, them church folks are meaner." And she did that, she went, like that again. She said, "What do you mean meaner?" I said, "Well, in prison, they

will just hit you head on, but in church, they stab you in the back." You all are laughing, but you know, I am just kidding. I do not even know where I am going. I am just glad I am going to heaven.

We were in Florida right before we went here to Arkansas this past week. We had five souls saved down there, had a good meeting. Pray for St. Joe. What happened in Missouri just a few years ago, and it is trickling across the United, a lot of prisons, some of you men or ladies may know something about the prisons. I know some of you all go to the jails. I do not know if you all have them in the jails, but they have tablets now. I do not know if the jail has that pastor or not, but these prisons have tablets. As a matter of fact, I was in St. Joe a few years ago, and I was going by a guy's cell, and he was walking, talking. At first I thought, you know, a guy talking to himself. So, but I walked in there, and I said, "Hey, how are you doing?" And he said, "Hang on, I got a preacher at the door." And I looked in there, and there was not but one guy, and I thought, "What's wrong with this guy talking to himself?" But I said, "Who are you talking to?" He said, "I am talking to the house preacher. What do you want?" And he had a little earbud from his tablet. I said, "Talking to the house?" He said, "Oh yeah, we can call home now on our tablets." I said, "That's the craziest thing I ever heard." And he said, "We cannot talk long, and it will shut down and things." I said, "Well, but," and then I went a few cells over, and this guy over had some kind of Christian rap he called, you know, they put Christian on anything nowadays. They may not be as Christian, but it is over, and he said, "Hey, preacher, listen to this." And he slid it under the door in his little wire thing. And I said, "I said, oh, I can hear that from up here. I do not need to listen to that right there." And I said, "Be careful sticking that back in your ear, because it slid under some stuff there." And he said, "Oh, it ain't going to bother me, preacher," you know.

But I went by a guy's bed one time in a Georgia prison. He had on a steel bed there; he had a little can with a fire going underneath that bed. He had a piece of baloney, and it was looking like it was getting pretty tasty. I said, "Man, what are you doing, man?" He said, "I am frying up some baloney, preacher. You want some?" I said, "No, I have already eaten, man. I said, but I said, you are probably going to get lead poisoning." He said, "I do not care. It has everything else. It does not matter." But it did look like a good piece of baloney. That ain't no baloney. But anyways, we just love Jesus. God called us, and we surrendered, been preaching and telling the old story.

But Missouri has gotten to where you cannot carry in a lot of literature. As a matter of fact, a lot of prisons cannot even carry in literature. Pastors have all these dear books and stuff. It is heartbreaking. You cannot take them in. As a matter of fact, some prisons you cannot bring your Bible in. Now, you can go in and use a Bible in there. Of course, at St. Joe, I have a friend of mine that they go in weekly out of a church up in the area there, Riverside Baptist. He told me, "Brother, I got you a King James Bible if you can get in the prison." What happened, I met with the new chaplain back in April, took him out to eat. They say, you know, whose God is their belly. He is a good fine chaplain, but it was a good door. Take a man out to eat. A man gets that door open. But the chaplain is excited, and he talked with the warden. The warden is going to allow us to carry in material in this prison revival. What happened in Missouri, it is up to the

discretion of the warden at each facility. But they are trying to put more to the tablet, less printed stuff coming in, because a lot of drugs come in on pieces of paper and stuff. It is amazing the things that are going on. I guess since this is live or recorded, a lot of things I would not say standing up here that, you know. But do pray for the prison revival. Like I say, we will be able to go in with trays of gospel literature. This prison coming up later part of the week, we will have two preaching services today going cell to cell witnessing. And looking forward to what God is going to do in Missouri.

At one time, I used to have eight prisons here in Missouri. We had all three reception centers, Bonne Terre, Fulton, and WRDC. But right now, our ministry is only in maybe three or four of the prisons. We have one of our men out of Paducah, Kentucky, that kind of took the southeast region that is working around Farmington and Bonne Terre. A number of prisons down there, they have Potosi, where death row is and things. But he is not able to really come up in this region. So we have kind of held on to St. Joe. I do not know if we will do it once or twice a year. But you have to be seeing what doors the Lord may open in the future. So pray for us at the Rock of Ages. Afterwards, if you have any questions or any things about the ministry, please remember the website, roapm.org. If you will go there and check that out and look at some things about the Rock of Ages, then it will be a blessing. Anything else you think I ought to add about the preacher? Okay.

IV. Why God?

I am honored that if you have your Bible, Exodus chapter 5, we will begin reading. I am going to try to give you a few thoughts here. I will not keep you too long. Exodus chapter 5 in the Word of the Lord, I want to begin reading in verse 1 and maybe a little lengthy, but I will get to the thoughts quickly.

Exodus 5:1-23

1. And afterward Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness.

2. And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.

3. And they said, The God of the Hebrews hath met with us: let us go, we pray thee, three days' journey into the desert, and sacrifice unto the LORD our God; lest he fall upon us with pestilence, or with the sword.

4. And the king of Egypt said unto them, Wherefore do ye, Moses and Aaron, let the people from their works? get you unto your burdens.

5. And Pharaoh said, Behold, the people of the land now are many, and ye make them rest from their burdens.

6. And Pharaoh commanded the same day the taskmasters of the people, and their officers, saying,

7. Ye shall no more give the people straw to make brick, as heretofore: let them go and gather straw for themselves.

8. And the tale of the bricks, which they did make heretofore, ye shall lay upon them; ye shall not diminish ought thereof: for they be idle; therefore they cry, saying, Let us go and sacrifice to our God.

9. Let there more work be laid upon the men, that they may labour therein; and let them not regard vain words.

10. And the taskmasters of the people went out, and their officers, and they spake to the people, saying, Thus saith Pharaoh, I will not give you straw.

11. Go ye, get you straw where ye can find it: yet not ought of your work shall be diminished.

12. So the people were scattered abroad throughout all the land of Egypt to gather stubble instead of straw.

13. And the taskmasters hasted them, saying, Fulfil your works, your daily tasks, as when there was straw.

14. And the officers of the children of Israel, which Pharaoh's taskmasters had set over them, were beaten, and demanded, Wherefore have ye not fulfilled your task in making brick both yesterday and to day, as heretofore?

15. Then the officers of the children of Israel came and cried unto Pharaoh, saying, Wherefore dealest thou thus with thy servants?

16. There is no straw given unto thy servants, and they say to us, Make brick: and, behold, thy servants are beaten; but the fault is in thine own people.

17. But he said, Ye are idle, ye are idle: therefore ye say, Let us go and do sacrifice to the LORD.

18. Go therefore now, and work; for there shall no straw be given you, yet shall ye deliver the tale of bricks.

19. And the officers of the children of Israel did see that they were in an evil case, after it was said, Ye shall not minish ought from your bricks of your daily task.

20. And they met Moses and Aaron, who stood in the way, as they came forth from Pharaoh:

21. And they said unto them, The LORD look upon you, and judge; because ye have made our savour to be abhorred in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of his servants, to put a sword in their hand to slay us.

22. And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Lord, wherefore hast thou so evil entreated this people? why is it that thou hast sent me?

23. For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in thy name, he hath done evil to this people; neither hast thou delivered thy people at all.

Notice quickly back in the latter part of verse 22, notice what he asked, the last question that Moses asked the Lord: "Why is it that thou hast sent me?" Just a simple thought here this morning, and I will preach to you on "Why God?"

Have you ever asked God why? I remember growing up in Kentucky, and I grew up with a really crazy childhood. My parents, they just, I guess, could not figure out how to get along when I was about five, went different ways. So I bounced around here and there. But mainly, I tell folks, my younger years, Eastern Kentucky, way out in the hollers. I am not kidding. 30 minutes down a dirt road before you got to the pavement. Actually, my mom and sister and I lived in a little trailer. My dad was going off at that time, and we lived in a little trailer. But looking back, boy, I wished I was living there right now, because back then, I just said, "I would like to go somewhere one day." Because all we had was an old holler, and you would go down a little gravel driveway, and jump in the creek, wallowing in the mud, and play with crawdads, and go back in the pine thickets, had caves back there in the spring. Back then, I did not realize how good I had it. Of course, we did not own any of that. We just rented, you know.

I remember growing up, there was an old guy up the road. His name was Okey, and he drove like Pokey. If it was 55, he did 35. Some of you all like me, you drive by grace, and at night, drive by the law. I better leave that alone. But I remember the first time he came down the road, and he picked us up. That old truck, he was coming down that holler, and picking up kids. We went to the old Methodist Church. That is the first time I remember going to church. I will never forget that. I did not know anything about church. Nothing about the Bible. We did not go to church. But the only thing I knew about church, we picked up three channels on the TV. My mom, I liked old Jimmy Swaggart. Of course, I did not know who the guy was. I was just a little old boy, you know. But I think she liked the way Jimmy sang, mainly. She would turn him on about Sunday, you know. Of course, I would be out and playing and stuff.

I remember going to that church. All I remember is I had these blue-bibbed overalls. I had a couple of my little Matchbox cars, and I had a butter knife. I remember we got to that church. All I remember, I thought, "What in the world?" They had my mother and another lady. And there were two other ladies. He got them up there singing. And I thought, "My Mama's singing?" I know she is singing, you know. I do not know why they picked her. I guess they knew her out in the holler. I am going to say, the first time I go to church, that is all I can remember, you know. But then I remember I took off underneath those old pews, and there was an older woman. Two heavyset ladies got me while Mama was singing. They walked me out over by the bathroom. Those ladies saw my butter knife. That lady took my butter knife. I thought, "Man, she took my knife," you know. To be honest with you, after I left there, I thought, "I do not like church." You go there, they take your knife. I do not even know why Mama is singing. That is all I remember, first time in church.

But somehow in my mind, somebody had told me, "Do not question God. Do not question God." Then I can remember, as I got a little bit older, somebody had told me, "You know, something that, you know, when you get 12 or 13, you are accountable for everything." So like I said, I did not have any Christian upbringing. So I picked that up somewhere in school or something. So I got to thinking, you know, even before I got, I remember before I was getting to be 12 years old,

I thought, "Well, you know, when I hit 12, I am going to have to start being accountable for stuff to God." I remember when, right before I was 12, I thought, "Man, I have to get all my sinning in." Of course, I think that goes back to Jewish beliefs and stuff like that, you know. But one thing I picked up, somebody said, "Do not ask God why." But you know what? Now that I am saved, of course, you usually study the Bible. It is no sin in asking God why. As a matter of fact, I was working construction years ago and I asked a guy a question, and he cursed, got all upset when I asked him. Then there was another older electrician who came over and he said, "Son, there are no dumb questions." He said, "He is just a dummy because he does not know how to answer," you know. But nothing is wrong with asking a question. As a matter of fact, the Lord Jesus Christ, He said, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Now I would not stand up here and question God's deity, because without question, many, or attributes, God's deity. He is God. He is God the Father, He is God the Son, and He is God the Holy Ghost. It is not different plateaus where God is up here and then Jesus, then the Holy Ghost. I believe they are all one and the same. God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Ghost. It is like one time, these two theologians, they were arguing about the Trinity, the Godhead, and trying to debate. A little teenage boy walked up and he said, "What are you all talking about?" And they said, "Son, this is above your level. You know, we are talking about the Godhead, the Trinity." The little boy said, "Oh, I have already figured that out. That is not a big thing." So that one theologian looked at that little boy and said, "Well, explain the Trinity, the Godhead, son." He said, "Easy. He said it is three in one, one in three, and that one in the middle, He died for me." Three in one, one in three, and the one in the middle died for me.

But you think about the attributes of God, I would not question the fact that God is holy. God still is holy. He will say, "Well, that is the Old Testament." God did not quit being holy when He went into the New Testament. He is still holy. And God, He is still the very essence of God is love. Thank God. Many attributes you can teach and preach that we would not dare question about God, because it is without question. As a matter of fact, the Bible, you know, we have many questions, but the Bible is good about defending itself. We were at a prison down in Alabama years ago, and the chaplain, he said, "Hey, he is a man, do not go trying to argue the scripture, just share the scripture, because God is big enough to take care of Himself." A.W. Tozer, an old writer, I think he said something like, "It is not my job to evangelize, to Christianize America, but it is my command to evangelize America." We ought to tell everybody about the Lord Jesus Christ. An old preacher in Texas said one time, he said, "I refer Jesus to everybody."

But we ask God why, don't we? Many hard things in life, we ask God why. I thought about, I was at a Georgia prison years ago, and this three-story there, Georgia State, old rough prison, used to have death row there, had the, as a matter of fact, you can go in the little museum room and it has an electric chair, and the old, where they, the old sparky there, you know. As a matter of fact, some of the missionaries, one time we were in that prison, and there was one of the volunteers, Brother Tony Inzarelli from Boston, you know, I remember Tony, but we got up here, and he said, "Hey brother, get my picture in this chair." I said, "I ain't doing it." They allowed us to have our phone in that part of the prison, a little museum, and he said, "Why?" I said, "I ain't taking your picture in that chair." I said, "Look at them letters on the wall," and I had been reading, it

was a letter that the inmate wrote before he went to that electric chair. It had a little thing about their last meal. You know, it was interesting, the last thing they wanted to eat. Some of those letters I was reading, you could tell those men had made peace with God, they had gotten saved, and you can tell some of the letters, they did not know where they were going, some of them did not care. But I do not know. I told that brother, I said, "No, these people left that chair and went to eternity. I said, this ain't something I want my picture," you know, and so it was more solemn to me.

But I was in that same prison, a three-story high, and I was on one of the levels, and one of the inmates I was trying to witness to, and I will never forget, he was asking me why. He said, "Preacher, you are supposed to have all these answers." He said, "Why is it that that man did what he did to my sister?" And why, I would not stand here, you can kind of get a picture there where he was going. I said, "Sir, I will be honest with you, I felt like I was empty-handed when he asked me that." I said, "Sir, I do not have the answers to everything. I know everybody thinks a preacher can answer everything, but you know, this Bible has answers, and sometimes when God is silent, I am silent." As a matter of fact, Deuteronomy 29:29, the Bible said, "The secret things belong unto the LORD." There is something, you know, like go back, you know, saying to Adam and Eve, "Have a belly button?" An old preacher said, "God said, 'I am done with you,' and 'I am done with you,'" that is how they had a belly button, you know. We go back and forth on some things, you know. But anyways, that guy asked me why that day. I just really did not, I said, "Well, I will tell you, because of sin," you know, "sin will take you further you want to go, keep you longer you want to stay, cost you more than you ever want to pay," and I just tried to witness to him. I will never forget that guy though, he said, "Well, I will tell you, I am spending the rest of my life in this prison," he said, "because that man is gone, and he will never hurt anybody else again." But I felt empty-handed that day, when this man is asking me why.

There have been many times my wife has come to me with questions, you know, and I do not have the answer. We decided when we got married, you know, if there are any big decisions, I will make those, any little decisions, she will make those. So far, she has always made all the decisions. Of course, the one preacher up in Michigan, he said, "Ladies' minds," and do not you all get mad at me, if you do, I am leaving in a little while anyways, but ladies, they are like spider webs, you know, they are going this way and that way, just cannot keep up. Now men's minds may be like little motors clicking together and you know, trying to get somewhere. But my wife though, she has come to me with a lot of questions. Now the older I am getting, and I am trying to catch on, you know, I have been listening to older people, been married. I was in a prison, was in the church meeting, excuse me, in Florida, and my wife and I were there, and a couple who had been married 51 years, took us out to eat. I said, "Sir, what is the secret to being married 50 years?" He said, "Are you ready, young man?" I said, "I need help." He said, "Yes, ma'am." He said, "You learn to say yes, ma'am." I said, "Yes, sir."

But why? My wife has had questions and to be honest with you, I do not have the answer, but I can take the Lord in prayer. Sometimes God does not want me to have the answer. God wants her to go to the Lord. Sometimes I may have a question for her that she could help me, but what? She does not have the answer. Maybe I went to my preacher before, my former pastor and my, as

a matter of fact, a few months ago, I called my current pastor about something. We talked and talked, but he said, "Brother Tim, I really do not have the answer to give you right now." I remember one time going to my former pastor and I went to him with something, and as a matter of fact, he just looked at me. Now it was a couple hours later, he came and he gave me an answer. He was not quick. I think he wanted to make sure he was giving me something from the Lord. I remember one time when I was in Bible college, boy, I have to hurry, that clock is ticking, I do not know. But I was in Bible college and I was going through some things and to be honest with you, I just discouraged. I went over to Dr. Stent Blue after class one night, went to his house there, went in his study and then I just started boo-hooing, crying. I am going through all these problems. I talked to him for an hour and a half about this and that and all. He just sat there staring at me, smiling. When it was all over, I looked at him across the desk. I said, "Brother Blue, you really helped me." He started laughing at me. I said, "Why are you laughing at me?" He said, "Brother, I just sat here for an hour and a half, listened to all your problems and you got help." He said, "I did not say a word, I just listened." Sometimes people just need somebody to listen.

But we ask why, and here is the story. We read it, but if you did not get it, here is Moses, that great patriarch. God was molding him and making him in Exodus four and five. God was training Moses to lead a people. Now you can go in your Bible and Moses, there is a lot of preaching how he is a great typology of the Lord Jesus Christ. He was a mediator between God's people and God the Father. Jesus, He is a mediator. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time. So there is one God the Father and there is only one God the Son. And there is the only way to get to the God the Father, you have to know God the Son. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved, that name being the Lord Jesus Christ. That one being the Lord Jesus.

But here is Moses, God is raising this great pillar of the faith up. As a matter of fact, God had to get Moses to learn to live by faith instead of walking by sight. You say, "How was he walking by sight?" One time he had seen an Egyptian take advantage of one of his people and so Moses went over and handled the situation, took the life of that man and he buried him in the sand. The scripture talks about when he buried him, go back and look, he was looking this way and that way. What was he doing? Moses was making decisions walking by sight. But God has to get us to the point where we learn to step out and walk by faith. Faith is not a leap in the dark, it is a step into the light. Faith is taking God at His Word. Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. I know God has given to every man a measure of faith but that measure of faith can grow, as we take God at His Word and hide it in our heart. I am talking about from Genesis to Revelation, line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little, there a little, the Word of God.

So as you think about, here is Moses, God is raising him up and the latter part of chapter four, he had went up in the mount, he had been going into the mount. And think about this, he is the only one that was going up there getting a word from God. They are down here working for Pharaoh night and day. As we read about Pharaoh, now as you go through the book of Exodus, parts of the Old Testament, you will read about Pharaoh here and Pharaoh there. A lot of people say,

"Well, they will picture, there were different Pharaohs in the Old Testament." You all Bible students know that. But kind of like we have different presidents over the years, you know. But as you look, here is Pharaoh. Now he was not the devil, of course, the book of Exodus, the picture of our whole Christian pilgrimage. It was the blood that brought us out of Egypt. Thank God for the blood. Old Roger Tooley, a missionary of our church in England, he went over to England, he said, "It is a bloody religion." Over there, that is kind of maybe a slang word. They are looking at him, you know. But thank God for the blood, that has been applied to our lives. Neither is there salvation. I mean, the blood, talking about the sacrifice, the Old Testament. Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place. So anyways, Exodus, I am going to get preaching all this. I guess some ants got me stirred up this morning. But I said, "Boy, I am glad they ain't Georgia ants." You all been down in Georgia, down there, you know. But they have those fire ants. My son and I were doing that airsoft one day and he shot me in the neck, that dirty rascal. But then he went around and the Lord got him back, he jumped behind a bush behind the house and all of a sudden he started yelling because those fire ants got all over him. I said, "Teach you to shoot me in the neck."

But anyway, here is Moses. He went up in the mountain with God and all they knew is he had come down with a message and he is up there with the Elohim, the Almighty, the God of the mountain. He came back with a message in chapter four and he told them in chapter four, verse 29 down:

Exodus 4:29-31

29. And Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel:

30. And Aaron spake all the words which the LORD had spoken unto Moses, and did the signs in the sight of the people.

31. And the people believed: and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped.

Moses came back down that mountain telling the children of Israel, "God is going to deliver you." What happened? They believed and then they bowed and worshiped. That is kind of a picture of what happens in salvation. All we did is what heard the message from Moses. We heard the message from Jesus, that "I died, buried and rose again." Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, thou shalt be saved. He that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out. The very gospel, Paul talked about it in Corinthians, for I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures, the glorious gospel. And one day you heard it, you believed it and after you did that, you bowed and started worshiping God. If you are here today, you have never put your faith and trust in the gospel message, the Lord Jesus Christ that He died for your sins, buried for your sins and rose again for your sins. You can believe on Him today. And you will leave out of here worshiping. You will leave out of here knowing some answers and finding some answers for the problem.

So here is Moses, you all sticking with me, you all getting bored yet, you all get bored, we can quit. But praise God, I found a dime up here. But I put it back, preacher. You all said, "That's a prison preacher, go see if he steals that dime." I know what you all did. Praise God, you better hold on to your pocketbooks getting out of here. But anyway, here is Moses, he comes down with a message. They are all excited why, because they are going through affliction, you know. And sometimes it is good for you to go through affliction. The Psalmist said, "It was good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes." Sometimes God will knock you down, so you get in that Bible.

As I look here, so Moses, he comes in chapter five as we read it, and he goes to Pharaoh and asks Pharaoh for permission for the children of Israel to go out of Egypt and worship God on a three-day journey. So why do they have to go out of Egypt? Because it is against the law for them to worship there in Egypt. And also another good picture there, if you are really, really going to do some worship in your Christian life, you have to get out of Egypt. You have to get, you know, one thing about it, we get saved, but it seems like we spend most of our Christian life. We got delivered from Egypt, but now God is trying to get Egypt out of us. A lot of people say, "But boy, they are still holding on to Egypt." I do not know about you, but when I got saved, I do not want Egypt. We are in the world, but we are not of the world. And I do not say we enjoy things. I am the guy that gets around preachers that talk a lot of sports, and I am just, I do not know what to say, so I just go, "What about that?" "Huh, what about that?" "Oh yeah, huh, yeah," and I do not even know what I am talking about. Now if you talk about catching a big old bass, praise God, Texas rig, big old black, we will talk about that, you know. Everything, you know, is this guy talking about that, and he is right, but if you talk about this, you are not right, you know, anyway.

But as I look at all these things here in the Word of God, here is Moses, he said, "They just want to worship. They have to get out of Egypt," and think about this, why did they want to do that? Because it was in them to worship. It is in everybody to worship. Even the lost man, he worships something. He is worshiping, so, as a matter of fact, I was reading years ago, I got a newspaper, I have to hurry and get this wound up, preacher. But I picked up a paper, live action, true story. It was a paper in Nashville, they had an atheist group. I do not know if they are still there, but there is an atheist group, I was reading in the paper there in Nashville that meets on Sunday, they have a meeting on Sunday to talk about how there is no God, and I thought, "They do not even realize they are worshiping." If I did not believe there is a God, I would be fishing somewhere on Sunday. I would sleep till one o'clock and fish for half the day, stay out half the night. I am just being honest if they want no God, but it is in us to want to worship. Just, but here is, they want to worship, so they want to go out of Egypt.

As we read the story, Pharaoh, he is not the devil, but he plays a good part. In typology, he is a type of the devil. As a matter of fact, I thought about it, preaching in a lot of Baptist churches over these years. You know, there are people, they are not Pharaoh, but they played a part of the devil. It is kind of like that one time a devil, he ran in the side door and there is a guy sitting on the front pew and he went, "Raah!" And that guy just sat there and looked at him. And the devil went, "Raah!" And the guy just sat there and looked at him. And he went one more time, "Raah!" And he said, "I am the devil, ain't you afraid of me?" And the guy said, "No, I have been married

to your sister 30 years." Pharaoh is not the devil, but he plays a part, and you better not be trying to play the part of the devil in the house of God.

But here, you say, "How do you know he is part of the devil?" Because look what he said over there in verse nine. They wanted to go worship, right? And he said, "They are idle, they are idle." They were not idle, they were mixing mortar and brick and building this kingdom for Pharaoh, they were worn out. They were not idle, they were worn out. He said, "No, if they got time to go worship, we are going to make it harder on them. We are going to get them more busy." As a matter of fact, here is what he thought about God's Word that Moses brought. He said, the latter part of verse nine, "Let them not regard vain words." God's Word is not vain. But that is what Pharaoh thought about God's message that He had given Moses. That is a vain word, and now they are out. Think about that, are not a lot of times in our life we are asking God why, and it gets so much harder. As a matter of fact, this week I went by a guy's cell, two men in a cell, you could barely see in there, you could barely breathe in that unit. But there is a guy, boy, he is tat ahead of the toad to me just talking, and he told me, "Preacher, I just got saved a while back." I said, "Praise God, brother." Of course, I said, "Why, that means I am your ugly brother from another mother." Well, he got to talking, you know. But he got to crying, he said, "Preacher, I do not understand," he said, "I am about to give up on God." I said, "Do not give up," I said, "you cannot, He is in you. He is going to go everywhere you can." He said, "You do not understand." He said, "Since I got saved, I am in here," he said, "I have had a," I think it was his mother died. He said, "My wife has left me," and he went on down the list. It is like, it got worse and worse and worse. He said, "If God saved me, and I am supposed to have this new joy and victory," he said, "how come it is getting harder, and everything is just getting miserable?" And I said, "But God is not done yet." I said, "God is not working on our timetable." And I just shared scripture, I cannot remember everything I said, just talked to him about the Lord. But there was a man, here, just like these people, they want to worship God, they want to do what is right, they want to follow the man of God, but it is getting harder and harder and harder.

Now, I know what those slick Willie preachers on TV say, "Oh, you just get saved, trust these, you are going to have a Cadillac and beat a big daddy if he just hits an Adie, and you are not going to have any more headaches, you are not going to have any more problems." No, it might get worse than you have ever seen. I heard one preacher in a meeting, one time, he said, "Guy came down, got saved, you might say, you really ready to get in on this." Now, I remember when I got saved, the joy and the peace. And I thought, "Praise God, no more problems." But I found out, still got problems. We are in a sin-cursed world. There is probably, old Charlie Russell, one of our four missionaries, he said, "You think today is bad, wait till tomorrow."

So here is Moses, real quick, I have to hurry and give you this message, I am getting hungry myself. But Moses, he did not know what to do. He goes and tries to intercede for the people, and now they are mad at the preacher. I see that so much, so much everywhere you go. People, you know, they get mad, and "Well, my Christian life is a mess, because that preacher I got," and so they are hoppers. Like that old song, "The Hop," you know, they go hop, hop to church, to church. I heard one preacher say, "A lot of people only religion they got is that Beatles religion." "Twist and Shout." And then they got Chubby Checker religion. They twist again, you know.

They take the Word of God, and they twist in this, and they jump from church to church, and they are never settled, and never satisfied. And they are always blaming the preacher when things get hard. But what did that preacher do? He did what they asked him to do. He went to God, and I mean went to Pharaoh so they could go out and worship, and now they are blaming the preacher because their life is getting harder. No, God is allowing things sometimes to happen we do not understand.

Get this, now please stick with me here. But we are asking God why, why God? I am going faithful to church, I am doing Bible studies, I am trying to go soul-winning, I am spending time in prayer, and I know everybody has different schedules. You cannot measure yourselves amongst yourselves, you know. I remember when I was in Bible college, my preacher taught, he would literally, he would pray from four to six a lot of times, but I could not be him, why? Because I had to be on the job at six. I was getting up at four to, you know. But I remember one time I had stayed up and tried to, and I ran my car off the road trying to do, I said, "I have to get some sleep." So we have to just get with God. But here is Moses, he is trying to figure all this out, and he goes to God, and now they said, "You have made our savour to be abhorred in the eyes of Pharaoh and all of his people, it is your fault, preacher, it is your fault I got all these problems, your fault I am mixing all this mortar and brick." So he goes to God, and the man, who is the man of God got to cry to with all the problems? God, God. So he goes to God and he says, "Why is it that thou hast sent me?" He goes to God with this question, and I feel like I have rattled along and, but here, I will give you three answers He gave him that might help you. Sometimes I might not have the answer for my wife all the time. I need to be patient, because why God, God may be wanting to give her the answers. Vice versa with me, preacher might not be able to help me. Bottom line is God wants you to learn to go to Him. And sometimes if you do not say nothing, just keep trusting Him, just like that man in that cell the other day. I did not have the quick fix answer right there, and God did not want me to give it. But God wanted him to learn faith, God wanted him to learn to trust, God wants him to learn to obey, and Moses, He does give Moses those three answers.

V. Three Answers to "Why God?"

Here they are, chapter six. When you are asking God why, here is answer number one:

➢ 1.) Realize His Person

Exodus 6:1-3

1. Then the LORD said unto Moses, Now shalt thou see what I will do to Pharaoh: for with a strong hand shall he let them go, and with a strong hand shall he drive them out of his land.

2. And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the LORD:

3. And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them.

God past, present, and future, Jehovah. Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He says there in verse three, "But by my name JEHOVAH was I not known unto them." Notice that "I am." What is the answer He gave him? Realize my person. God said, "I know what is going on down there under the hand of Pharaoh. I see the bondage that my people are in. I see the trouble and the sorrows. I see the affliction, but Moses, things are going to work on my schedule. Things are going to work on my timetable. I have got to get them to the point, you spent time with me in the mount, but I have got to get them to the point where they realize my person. I am."

Now, to be honest with you, there are like, I think about, I do not know, was it over a thousand or so? "I am's" in the Bible, so we got a long ways to go today. I am just kidding. But realize His person, just like the one when I surrendered to go to this ministry, I just felt like He hugged me. I remember, as I said, He said, "I am going to take care of you and your family." I remember years ago when I surrendered and preached, my daddy thought I was crazy. As a matter of fact, I quit the electrical apprenticeship, stepped out by faith, went full-time to the church, only had a year to go, and I had been making big money. My dad said, "My grand baby is a star, but I do not understand." Well, years later, my dad came to me, he said, "Son, you got some faith, I ain't got." Why? Because I was trusting His person, His person. He is a real person. Aren't you glad our Lord is not just the Santa Claus that shows up at the end of the year if you have been good or not? That is the biggest lie, one of the biggest lies there. I like one preacher said, "I believe in Santa Claus, you are looking at him." My credit card shows that every Christmas. I hope one preacher is on the radio in Georgia, he said, "Why do these preachers always get up, pick an old Santa Claus?" Okay, I do not know, preacher run me off, I do not know here, brother. Hey, you all have to love me, I am going to be in heaven with you.

But realize His person. When you are out of the church, you are going down the road, nobody around. I was coming up one time years ago to come up here, I preached down in Florida, preached at church, and I was homesick then, got the wine. And I will never forget, I was driving up Interstate 24 out of Paducah, Kentucky, and I started crying, I said, "Lord, I am homesick. Nobody, that prison I left, they did not even hardly want to listen." They always go good. As a matter of fact, I cannot tell you what just happened in this prison, it was a pretty bad deal, like Friday night, it was a bad deal in the chapel, I guarantee you. But anyways, I was crying, I said, "Lord, help me." And all of a sudden, God moved in that car. I know God is in me. Some people say, "Well, I am praying for God to show up." If He saved, you brought Him right through the door. You just need to realize He is right there in you and do what He says. But realize His person, when you are asking God why, "I am," He said, "I am." Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." Jesus said, "I am the true vine." Jesus said, "I am the resurrection." Nobody realizes His person, but look at this real quick.

➢ 2.) Rely on His Promises

Verse four and five, we realize His person, we ask why, but He said:

Exodus 6:4-5

4. And I have also established my covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, wherein they were strangers.

5. And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel, whom the Egyptians keep in bondage; and I have remembered my covenant.

Next thing, get this real quick, realize His person, but start relying on His promises. Look what He said, "I have, I have, I have." He said, "You know what, Moses, you are all torn up and they are all upset at me. And I know it has gotten harder." You say, "Well, if God cares, then why have all these problems happened?" I do not mean God does not care. We are just in a sin-cursed world. Man, this boy, we are a woman's few days full of trouble. We are going to have troubles. But you know what, we just keep casting on Him, casting on Him. We keep drawing closer to Him. Like old sister, Johnny Irwin, she used to preach in a county jail at our church to the ladies and she got up in age, she had crippling arthritis, couldn't even play the organ anymore. You talk about affliction, but Ms. Johnny, my hands all crippled up right before she passed. I went up to her at church, she is walking off feeble. And I went up to encourage her. I said, "Hey, Ms. Johnny, are you doing okay?" She said, "I am doing just fine. I am getting a new body any second. Jesus could come back for this church." She started quoting scripture and talking to me. I felt backslid. She was not worried about that body. She knew she had a person to give her some promises, the Word of God. Thank God we have the promises of the Word of God.

Hey, you are going through things, you are asking God why? Just hunker down more than that old King James Bible. It is sweeter than honey from the honeycomb. That blessed Word of God that you hold in your hand. Hey, you have all the promises of God. It is more precious than anything on this planet, that Word of God that God has given to saved man. He magnified His Word above all of His name, the grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of the Lord abideth forever. I was down there, I am trying to hurry here, but I was down there in Florida and I used to have this old Buick Regal that it looked like 4th of July on the dashboard, a hundred and something thousand miles. I mean, I have never lied on the Word, but it ran. We went to prison everywhere. But I had this guy named Jerry Lewis, a volunteer friend of mine. You all think I am trying to be funny? I am not, you all quit laughing. But I was down there in that free, his name was Jerry Lewis. Imagine if I was Dean Martin instead of Tim Martin. That would be Jerry Lewis and Dean Martin going to prison. You all old-timers know about that. But old Jerry, I am not kidding. Old Jerry, he could not hardly see. His old wino, I mean, he got saved. He used to get to drinking and hop a box car and ride from Georgia and Alabama. He would end up in Louisiana, hop off a train box car and had to look at the tags on the car and know where he is at, you know. But old Jerry got saved, kid you not. That man got saved and he picked a 12-string guitar, about half blind and his face was real messed up. We were in a car wreck. Everywhere we went, people looked at him, you know. But if you ever talk to Jerry, he is going to tell you about Jesus and everybody ever meets Jesus. And he looked rough to look at, except car wreck. But after you talk with him, you love Jerry. As a matter of fact, every day at prison I go to, if I go back without Jerry, they say, "Where is Jerry?" "Yeah," I say, "He is not here." And they say, "I ain't coming to meet him," you know. They love Jerry.

Anyways, we are going down the road one day and I had some Tupelo honey. I have just a little bit out there in the truck too. I do not know, that is that real good honey. Comes out of Florida, North Florida. But do not worry, I am about done. Get excited, I am about done. You are going

to, but I will never forget, I had that Tupelo honey, a guy gave me to church and I had that little center console and Jerry sat in there and I popped that thing up and I took that honey going down the road and I just got down in there and got some of it and said it back. And Jerry said, "What do you have, brother?" I said, "That is that good Tupelo honey. Oh brother, give me some over at the church." He said, "Brother, you know I love that Tupelo honey." I said, "I know you do." He said, "Well I would have liked to have some, but I do not want any that you put your mouth all down in it." I said, "That is why I put my mouth all down in it." He said, "That ain't very Christian of you." I said, "Christian nothing." I said, "I do not want you having that honey." He said, "That ain't right." I said, "The thing is, it is my honey." Hey, this is better than honey. This is the Word of God. Rely on the promises. Realize His person, rely on the promise. Fall fresh and new in love with that Bible. Hey, thank God for His Word. We can go on and on. You can preach all day long. Hey, do not ever get, this Bible, always gets exciting you. Those little word studies. I was talking that word one day, "wit." You are clean every whit, W-H-I-T. That means there is nothing God sees wrong in you because you are in Jesus Christ. That one little word, "wit," praise God. You are no nitwit. You are a washed wit. Praise God, Hallelujah. Washed white as snow. I got a quid right here.

- 3.) Realize His Purpose

Hey, but think about this. I am asking God why my life is falling apart, but if I look up and just realize His person, He is my Savior. He is my Lord. He is my Jesus. And He is giving me His Word. And the last one real quick, verses six through eight. I will not read them all. You go read them. But a little bit there, He says, "I will bring you out. I will rid you. I will redeem you. I will take. I will bring." He goes all these, there are seven "I wills" in those verses. So God shows Moses "I am," "I have." And now He said to Moses, "I will." Think about this church. I know two thirds of the book dealing with Israel. God is not done with Israel. Thank God we are going to rapture out here and God is going to deal with all the judges, Gentile nations. God is going to deal with Israel. There will be a remnant come through that fire, that tribulation. They will realize He is the Messiah. They will believe on Him one day. You all know that is right.

But you think about it. Here is an "I will" seven times. And in the Jewish mindset, seven is the number of a covenant, completion covenant. And God is saying to Moses, "I am, I am, I have." And now "I will." "I will bring them out. I will rid them of this. I will give them rest." Well He is showing them a covenant. So what does that mean, preacher, for me? God is showing them "I have a purpose." I have a purpose. So I am asking God why? Well, because He wants me to realize His person. Really it is all about Him. You know the great truth of the scripture. I know a lot of people say it is winning souls. And I believe that is right there. But the main thing it starts with glorifying God. If we are glorifying God, we will not have problems winning souls. My preacher always says, "If we will have revival in the church, the missions program will explode." When we are glorifying God, we will be wanting to win souls and we will be wanting to give all to Jesus, saved man. We will be wanting to go and tell it everywhere. But what? We will realize God has a purpose for us. It is not God's purpose for everybody to go to prison. I remember, I will tell you that I got, I got, I am sorry, preacher. I was down there in Georgia and I got a preacher to go to prison with me. He went one time, ain't never been back. Man, he preached

circles around me. Great preacher. But I will never forget, because well, there is one guy who came out of the chow hall that kind of liked him. Anyways, he came, but it shook him up bad, you know. But he got up in that prison, preached 10 minutes and sat down. I will be honest, we had a two-hour service and he preached 10 minutes and sat down there. Why? Prison was not for him. Now he pastors a church, doing a great work, God. I am no better than him. But that was not God's purpose for him. Some of you all got a, preacher encourage you to go down there to the mission. And you say, "I ain't doing much." You might go down there and find your purpose. Say, "Praise God, preacher is right."

Here is, not everybody is a preacher. My daughters growing up, they go to Walmart and these little girls, I give them a stack of tracts and they go to the aisle and put them tracts in them purses. Now I have my little grandchildren, my daughter in Alabama, they go do some street ministries and my little grandkids be on the street handing out tracts. My little grandson, Weston, of course he is going on nine, but I think he is seven, they go on door to door and he say, "Hi, I am Weston, give you a tract." Most people take that. Some of us old rough-looking adults, they run us off. But God gave him a purpose. Why? I do not have all the answers. But there is a person that does. There are promises that we can follow and God is going to give us a purpose. Why God, why Father?

I feel like it has been scattered. I have been excited to be here with these dear folks today. Lord, if we never see this side of heaven, I pray that you would just extend your hand to mercy and grace and help the folks of this church, think of this dear pastor. Thank you, Lord, how You blessed him and these people to be a lighthouse in this community around the world. Lord, none of us have all the answers, but we do know You are the answer. We know Your Word is the answer. Lord, sometimes even the problems of our life, we cannot fix with a quick answer, a quick fix remedy. But Lord, we can learn to rely on Your purpose. Lord, look to You as a person. Lord, we love You. I pray You would help somebody here today, maybe somebody here today trying to ask why and figure out all the things of salvation. Would You give them that faith just to trust You for who You are? Who You are, You are a real person that loves us. And we will thank You in Jesus' name. Amen.