



**Series: Exodus Out of Egypt**

**Date: April 11, 2022**

**Speaker: Scott Urbanek, Pastor of College & Missions**

**Text: Exodus 6:28-7:13**

**Title: Your Assignment and God's Provision**

MIS: God has an assignment for you, and he will give you the means to accomplish it.

Good morning, Mercy Church! It is great to be with you this morning. I wanted to take a moment and praise God for a couple of things that happened last week, and one thing for this morning. Last week, we talked about what it could mean for all of us to take our next step in following Jesus and at the end of our services we had 322 people between both campuses indicate that they wanted to take their next step in following Jesus, by joining one of

our ministry teams! This is amazing. If we're going to see our city impacted with the gospel it takes every one of us from time to time thinking through our next step in following Jesus. Listen, don't let this be a one-off thing. A good practice for you might be to every year evaluate what step God might be calling you to take. Who needs the gospel? What part of our church is in need? How can I use my gifts? All of those are good questions, that even I need to ask myself. And, if you see a friend who needs to take a step, challenge them to do it!

Mention Stu & Gracie (shepherd) Reese moving to South Asia.

This morning, we are continuing in our Exodus series starting in Exodus 6:28. At this point of the story, we're about to get to all of the plagues and the cosmic throw down between God and Pharaoh, but God still had more work to do in Moses' heart! So far have seen God call Moses to deliver his people from their oppressors in Egypt. We've seen Moses and the Lord go back and forth on Moses' insecurities as he looks at this enormous task that has been entrusted to him. And we've seen God ensure Moses that he will go with him. Two weeks ago, we saw Moses take a big step in following God and in his



eyes, it went terribly. Moses went to Pharaoh and demanded that he let God's people go, and instead of it working, it got a lot worse. Pharaoh didn't let God's people go, and he even increased his harsh treatment of Israel. Moses' resolve was tested as Pharaoh turned up the pressure on God's people. As Pastor Spence mentioned, our response to things not going our way can be a lot like Moses. What the heck, God? I obeyed you and it got worse. What am I supposed to do now?

It's right here where if this were a movie, the movie takes a turn for the worse and you wonder if the main character is going to keep going in the story. And then it happens, the character finds something within themselves to keep going. A mentor or a coach tells them to look at within themselves to find the strength that they had in them all along but hadn't known how to activate it yet. And then when they finally do, it's like they become a superhero who never struggles with self-confidence again. Spoiler alert, this story isn't like a movie. What we see in Moses is him struggling with a real-life struggle. This is why I love the Bible! It shows real people with real struggles. Moses is looking at the assignment God has given him and knows he doesn't have it. God doesn't give him a pep-talk, no. He points

him to himself. At the end of the day, Moses' assignment isn't about him. It's about God. That's what I want us to see today. MIS: **God has an assignment for you, and he will give you all that you need.**

So, let's pick up in verse 28. Remember, from Moses' perspective the last task the Lord gave him, failed miserably. But, if you look in the headings of your Bible, the plagues are coming, and Moses led God's people through it. But before we get there... There was still some work that needed to be done in Moses' heart.

**28** On the day the LORD spoke to Moses in the land of Egypt, **29** he said to him, "I am the LORD; tell Pharaoh king of Egypt everything I am telling you."

**30** But Moses replied in the LORD's presence, "Since I am such a poor speaker, how will Pharaoh listen to me?"

**1) Your assignment is not dependent on your ability.**

Let's start with vs. 28-29 again. God pulls Moses aside again and said to him in verse 29, "I am the Lord...". Moses is crushed because the last time he obeyed God it



went terribly, and God takes a moment to re-center his heart and mind. God gets down on Moses' level, just like a good father would to a discouraged child and He said: "Moses, I am the Lord...". God appeals to his own name. This is incredibly important for us to understand. God was appealing to his name, Yahweh. As we saw earlier in the series Yahweh means "I am". Or another faithful way to interpret this is that He is that which he has always been. He is saying Moses, I am the promise keeper. I am the same God that I was to Abraham, Isaac, and to Jacob. I always remember. I never forget. I am the Lord. I've shown my character to be good in the past, therefore, you can my character in your future.

Like Moses, we forget, don't we?! I can't tell you how many times I've worried about how something was going to turn out and then I saw God provide, and I felt like a dummy. Like Moses, we forget. And like Moses, we also base our confidence in accomplishing the assignment God has given us based on our ability, and not on who Yahweh is. Because of OUR sin and fear, WE judge God's assignment to us based upon whether or not we feel competent for the task. Like Moses when we overly fixate on our lack of ability. When we do this, we are way too focused on ourselves. We start to see ourselves as the

obstacle in the way of God accomplishing his mission. Which is crazy! We couldn't stop anything God wanted to do, even if we tried.

Moses then said in verse 30, **30 But Moses replied in the LORD's presence, "Since I am such a poor speaker, how will Pharaoh listen to me?"** This is like the fourth time He has brought this up to the Lord. This idea is stuck in his head and it's like a cycle that never stops. He keeps telling himself and hearing in his head that he's inadequate. I want to take a moment and speak to the idea of inadequacy. I want to speak to you as a fellow human in this way because I can certainly identify with feeling inadequate to almost all of the things God has assigned me to. Listen to this: **God isn't asking you to be competent, he's asking you to be obedient.** God has called all of us to a great calling. He's given each and every one of us an assignment in the Great Commission. Every one of us has been given the task to make disciples of all nations. We all play a part. And I know that sometimes what God is asking you to do seems scary. But you have to ask yourself, why is does it seem scary? Why do we usually jump to straight to fear? Is it because you're afraid you're going to fail, not measure up? Probably so. But there is something deeper that your fear



is telling you. Remember what we've been saying in this series, what you believe about God is the most important thing about you. It shapes everything about your life. And anywhere that you place a condition on your obedience based on your competence, your problem isn't really your ability. It's your faith. Your functional belief is that God won't come through. I've spoken with many of you, many of you know what God is asking you to do and you're afraid. I get it. It's scary! Church, we have to get out of your own way. How can you trust in God that he will save you from your sin and that you will be in a place called heaven one day and not believe that he will come through for you? That's inconsistent! You have to see your problem isn't that you feel inadequate. The problem is that you have a small view of God. Fear is now sitting on the throne instead of Christ. As someone who is prone to being fearful, church please... get fear off of the throne! If fear rules your life, you are in for a joyless walk with Jesus. You're never going to see God show off in his provision! You're never going to see a good heavenly daddy provide for his precious child!

I remember as a child finding myself in situations where I didn't know what to do or how to move forward and all I wanted was for my dad to show up. Why, I knew he

would know what to do? God knows what to do! He loves you and you can obey him because you can trust him.

*(Some illustrations or examples)*

*How do we obey as a church body? Going overseas...*

*Group project example.*

Listen to the words of God to Moses, "I am the Lord." I will be with you. We have to trust him and obey.

We see God remind Moses of who he is and now God gives him the plan of everything that is about to happen, and shares with him about all obstacles he's going to face. "I am the LORD; tell Pharaoh king of Egypt everything I am telling you."

**7** The LORD answered Moses, "See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother will be your prophet. **2** You must say whatever I command you; then Aaron your brother must declare it to Pharaoh so that he will let the Israelites go from his land. **3** But I will harden Pharaoh's heart and multiply my signs and wonders in the land of Egypt. **4** Pharaoh will not listen to you, but I will put my hand into Egypt and bring the military



divisions of my people the Israelites out of the land of Egypt by great acts of judgment. **5** The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring out the Israelites from among them.”

## **2) The outcome of your assignment is already decided.**

Right here we see God telling Moses the outcome of what will happen. He says, alright Moses and Aaron... This is what you are to do, and this is what I'm going to do. I love that God does this with him. I love this because the longer Moses follows Yahweh, the more he will find confidence that God will bring about his will for his people. Sometimes, the more we are reminded of the ending of the story, the more confidence we have in the Lord. One of the great themes of Exodus and of all the scriptures is God telling us our assignment, and then him accomplishing the outcome. Acts 1:8: **“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”** We see our assignment, we are to be witnesses, and we will be witnesses to the ends of the earth. And as we see the book of Acts unfold,

we see the beginnings of how the church did this, and we're still doing this today. Why? Because we have confidence in the end. Revelation 7:9. **9** After this I looked, and there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands. **10** And they cried out in a loud voice: Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb! People from every tribe tongue and nation surrounding the throne worshipping king Jesus. That's the end. We obey, because in the end, we win! Jesus wins it all and we get to go with him!

At my house, my wife hates suspenseful movies. She's like, “I got enough stress in my life, why would I expose myself to more?” I guess that makes sense. But I because I hate doing things alone, I always want her to watch with me. So, in order to get her to watch the movie (if it's one that I've seen), sometimes I'll tell her how the movie ends. When she knows how it ends, she has more willing to move forward. For about 15 min, and then she'll fall asleep and I'm alone again. There's one in every couple. You know who you are! How dare you do that. Shame on you.



The point here is that God keeps telling Moses the outcome of all of this so that he will trust and obey. In verse 1, he says I will make you like God to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother will be your prophet. This is big. He's reminding Moses about something he said to him back in chapter 4:15. Moses's ways complaining and said, "Lord, please send someone else." And the Lord responded by saying, "You will speak with him and tell him what to say. **I will help both you and him to speak and will teach you both what to do.**"

Did you catch that? Aaron was to be mouthpiece for Moses. But he promises that he will help both of them speak. In another version it says that "I will be with your mouth and his mouth." Eventually, we will see in Exodus that Aaron isn't always the primary communicator. He starts out that way, but as Moses grows in his confidence in Yahweh, he starts to communicate directly to God's people. But more on that in the sermons to come.

Alright, I know what some of you might be thinking... "Scott, you've said assignment like a million times, and I don't know what my assignment is. God never spells it out for me that clearly." I get it, he does get pretty specific with Moses and tells him exactly what to do. But,

let me push back on that idea for a moment. God is very specific with us through his word as we walk in the Spirit. Now, this sermon isn't about how to know what your assignment is, but I think it is a helpful tangent. Here's my push back...Here is what I mean, there are a lot of commands that Christ gives that are explicitly said directly to you. The problem for most of us is that you're not obeying the simple commands of Christ that you already know. We are all called to make disciples of all nations. Matthew 28 says that. We all know this. Have you ever made a disciple? Have you ever shared your faith (studies show us that most of us don't), are you spending time in God's word & immediately obeying what it says? What about 1 Thess. 5:18: Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 thess. 4:3 It is God's will that you be sanctified; that you avoid sexual immorality. James 5: If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. Ephesians 5:15-20: Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speaking to one another



with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music with your heart to the Lord. Always giving thanks to God the father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Are you doing what is clearly commanded?

When we spend time with God in his word and obey his word, when we invite the Spirit of God into our day with an expectance that he will prompt us, and we continually obey him in those moments. The Spirit of God starts to clarify for us what our assignment needs to be at work, in our family, in our company, in our neighborhood. If you're not frequently asking the Spirit of God for wisdom on how to operate as a believer in your workplace, it's going to be really hard for you to know what the voice of the Lord sounds like. And even more difficult to discern your specific assignment in the great commission.

Alright, probably spent too much time there. The outcome of our assignment is already decided, so we can obey and trust. And that's what Moses and Aaron do next. They trusted and obeyed and look what happens. It's about to get wild and weird...

**6** So Moses and Aaron did this; they did just as the LORD commanded them. **7** Moses was eighty years old and Aaron eighty-three when they spoke to Pharaoh.

**8** The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, **9** "When Pharaoh tells you, 'Perform a miracle,' tell Aaron, 'Take your staff and throw it down before Pharaoh. It will become a serpent.'" **10** So Moses and Aaron went into Pharaoh and did just as the LORD had commanded. Aaron threw down his staff before Pharaoh and his officials, and it became a serpent. **11** But then Pharaoh called the wise men and sorcerers—the magicians of Egypt, and they also did the same thing by their occult practices. **12** Each one threw down his staff, and it became a serpent. But Aaron's staff swallowed their staffs. **13** However, Pharaoh's heart was hard, and he did not listen to them, as the LORD had said.

Here's the last thing I think the Lord wants us to see today in this text:

**3) Your assignment is BOTH for your good and God's purposes.**

Look at what God does here. Moses and Aaron obey, and everything happened just as God had said. So, question...



how is it for Moses' good and God's glory? Let's start with Moses' good. Think about it this way... Who do you think is getting the most out of experiencing this miraculous moment? Moses or Pharaoh? Moses! How do we know? God already said that he was going to harden Pharaoh's heart in verse 3. God knew that he wasn't going to let Israel go yet. But God had a bigger plan. He was already planning the plagues in the following chapters which is for God's purposes. But it ensured that Moses saw God's power at work before they moved forward! Man! Look at how intentional God is. He simultaneously increases Moses's faith for future steps of obedience by displaying his power... at the same time hardening Pharaoh's heart so that he could multiply his power among the nations. And what we see later with the plagues is that God so severely disables Egypt that even some of the Egyptians start leaving Egypt to go with Israel because they are blown away by the power of Yahweh. Yes, God is even reaching the nations in the OT.

Now, let me speak to the skeptics for a moment and acknowledge that yes, there was just an epic snake battle. If you're new to the Bible and aren't currently a follower of Jesus, I'm so glad you're here. Let me speak to you because I can imagine what you might be thinking.

"Wait a minute. He skipped right over a snake battle. This is why I can't believe the Bible. I'm too educated to believe in this miracle stuff." Alright I hear you. That's why we have our snake handling ministry for you to try out. Just kidding. No, I think that is a legitimate question. And I have an answer for it, but it may cause you to do a little more investigating, which I think is good. If you're looking at this passage and just can't believe in this miracle. I'd like to humbly say, that you're looking at the wrong miracle. There's a different miracle that I think you should be wrestling with first, not this one. I think the first miracle you should wrestle with is the fact that Jesus died for our sins on a cross by being executed by Roman soldiers, he was then placed in a grave for 3 days, and then he rose from the dead. That is the miracle that I think you should focus on. Why? Because all of Christianity is based off of this one miracle. If this didn't happen, then we are all wasting our time here this morning. Everything we have done so far is utterly meaningless, if Jesus didn't get out of the grave. Our claim is that Jesus died for our sins and that our only hope to be saved from it is Jesus' death & resurrection.

And you might say, well, I just don't think Jesus existed. I've met people who like this, especially on the college





campus, who just don't think he existed. And I respond with well, what if I said I don't believe that Abraham Lincoln existed. They typically respond with; well, we have historical proof that he did. The emancipation proclamation! I respond with, oh, I know. I'm just choosing to not believe that he actually existed. That's insane right? Of course, Abraham Lincoln existed. And so did Jesus. Read the Bible for yourself and ask God to reveal himself to you. Read A case for Christ by lee Strobel. He was an atheist journalist who investigated the resurrection to further prove a point that Jesus didn't exist and what he found shocked him. Jesus did exist. He did die. He did raise. So, the question isn't do I believe in this snake battle. It's do I believe that Jesus is the son of God. And I want to tell you he is. So... if you're interested in more on that, that's what Easter is all about. The resurrection of Jesus. Come back next week!

Back to the story... God worked out all of this both for Moses' good and God's purposes. Moses was about to see even crazier things than a snake battle in days to come and God knew that Moses needed his faith to be strengthened so God showed off for him.

As we conclude today, I want to say, he has showed off for us too! As we look at the book of Exodus, we see that something eerily similar. We see Moses and God's people continue to live in fear. They continue to disobey God because they lose sight of who God is. The same thing fear that Moses struggled with in the beginning of Exodus is the same fear that kept him from being able to enter the promised land at the end of exodus. Moses and Israel continued to not trust God despite all the miracles that God showed them. Y'all we're similar aren't we! That's why we need Jesus. When we were faithless, Christ was faithful. When we struggled to obey and trust God. Christ perfectly obeyed and trusted his father. The gospel in Exodus is that God made a covenant with Israel. He made a promise that to take them to the promised land. He gave them the 10 commandments, the law, to instruct them. And all it showed them was that they and we are incapable of keeping them. It shows us our need. We're sinners. All of us! So, Jesus came, He obeyed perfectly because we couldn't. He died in our place so that we didn't have to die for it. And rose from the dead. Defeating death and sin. And he says to all who look to him, Come! All who are weary and tired, and I will give you rest. I will save you from your sins. I will be your father if you didn't have one. I'll be what you can place



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your hope in because everything else will let you down.  
And when you give your life to him, He has an assignment  
ready for you and he will give you all that you need.  
Amen!

Let's pray!