

The Cost of Obedience > Exodus 5:1-9

5:1-2 *Obey who?* Moses and Aaron confront Pharaoh with a version of God's demands (though they don't say it in the way God directed). Pharaoh doesn't know God or recognize his authority and so refuses to let the Hebrews go.

5:3-4 *Obey me!* Once more, Moses and Aaron attempt to persuade Pharaoh according to what God had said, this time in the way that God told them to. However, the damage has been done: Pharaoh thinks that what he is hearing is an excuse to get the people out of work.

5:5-9 *Costly obedience.* Ultimately, Pharaoh does what God said he would do, and the scene is set for a confrontation. God's people will have to endure even though it is difficult.

Background: God called Moses to speak his word to both the Hebrews and to Pharaoh. Much to his own surprise, the meeting with the leaders of the Hebrews went smoothly! Perhaps he thinks meeting with Pharaoh will be easy, too?

The Point: Obedience is not promised to be trouble-free.

Head: Know that following Christ is not an easy task. Trials and temptations are part of the deal when it comes to following Jesus.

Heart: Believe the good news that, for those in Christ, such trials are not defeats, but opportunities to grow in the Lord.

Hands: Who will you seek to encourage and build up to faithfully trust Christ and endure in the week ahead?

Here is how I will apply these truths: _____
