

## **“A New Beginning, Makes a Good Ending”**

In December 1914, a great, sweeping fire destroyed Thomas Edison's laboratories in West Orange, New Jersey, wiping out two million dollars' worth of equipment and the record of much of his life's work.

Edison's son Charles ran about frantically trying to find his father. Finally he came upon him, standing near the fire, his face ruddy in the glow, his white hair blown by the winter winds. "My heart ached for him," Charles Edison said. "He was no longer young, and everything was being destroyed. He spotted me. "Where's your mother?" he shouted. "Find her. Bring her here. She'll never see anything like this again as long as she lives."

The next morning, walking about the charred embers of so many of his hopes and dreams, the sixty-seven-year-old Edison said, "There is great value in disaster. All our mistakes are burned up. Thank God we can start anew."

Today I want us to understand that the Lord wants to burn up our mistakes and give us a fresh start. I will be using (Exodus chapters 7-11) as the foundation for this ministry. These scriptures document the circumstances that occurred during the confrontation between Moses and the Pharaoh of Egypt. Through their powerful interaction with each other, as God guided Moses, many important lessons can be gleaned. These truths will empower us to overcome our dilemmas by impeding our past from negatively affecting our future.

There were ten plagues the Lord instructed Moses to release over Egypt. These plagues were purposed to cause Pharaoh to free God's people from their captivity so that the Israelites could worship the Lord in freedom. They were the Plague of the Blood, the Plague of Frogs, the Plague of Gnats, of Flies, and on Livestock, the Plague of Boils, of Hail, and of Locusts, the Plague of Darkness and then the Plague on the Firstborn. In all but one instance, Pharaoh refused to let God's people go and in each case he became more unyielding while Moses became more dependent on the Lord. However, even after the King of Egypt released the Israelites, after God's Plague on the firstborn, Pharaoh changed his mind and pursued the Israelites all the way to the Red Sea desiring, to reclaim them (Exodus 14: 5-9).

I believe there are two important dynamics at work in this story that will help us as we look toward our future situations. First Pharaoh is remarkably like you and I; we have selfish ambitions, and self-centered agendas that we pursue, sometimes recklessly. Moses, on the other hand, is a type and shadow of what the Lord wants us to model our lives after, that is, obedience, patience, longsuffering and a life full of faith, to name a few. We know Biblically that the ten plagues hardened Pharaoh's heart, however, simultaneously these plagues hardened Moses' faith and this is the central theme in this ministry.

How many times have we not received our miracle because the Lord hardened the situation, and due to our humanness we became impatient and despondent? How often have we expected the answer to come one way and the Lord determined it would come another, leaving us feeling distraught and out of control? The problem is that we want all the control we can get and we don't like losing it! Each time we feel out of control, when the Lord hardens our dilemmas, He's teaching us to look to Him rather than ourselves. Too often we have looked at our circumstances and said, "Lord take care of this situation for me." His response may be, however, "Stretch out your hand and touch the situation with your rod of authority." Because we are instructed to do this, we walk away feeling downcast and bewildered saying, "Stretch out my staff of authority to touch what, and expect what?"

### Hebrews 11:6:

The Lord desires that we rise up in faith because, *"Without faith we can not please Him"*.

**"More importantly faith is the currency we use in the Heavenly realm to purchase our possibilities."**

Many of us may continue to look at our old unresolved issues as well as our current conditions and demand that either God do something with them, or we will. When we impatiently try to solve our predicaments or think we have a right to demand anything of the Lord out of our frustration or intolerance, we are actually hardening our hearts toward Him.

I want you to make a list of impossible situations that you are facing, past or present. Now, please look at these supposed impossibilities and allow the Lord to reveal to you why He has allowed them in your life.

In the case of Moses, plague after plague incited the Israelites to murmur more and more, so that Moses thought, *"And you sent me here to do what?"* (Exodus 5:1-23, 6:6-9) However, the Lord used the plagues as a double-edged sword. First He used them to cut Pharaoh, then He used them to cut Moses. In every dilemma the Lord is using our difficulties to cause us to come to a new level of faith, or through our own unwise choices, we become more stubborn and rigid. In essence, if we expect an answer to our predicaments we must stay resilient and compliant to the Lord, even if He hardens the situation causing the result to look impossible.

If you will recall, the Israelites became more and more despondent with each plague, even to the point Moses thought they were going to rebel against him (Exodus 5:20-21). Even Moses became fearful and insecure regarding the direction the Lord wanted him to take. Yet the Lord continued to ask Moses to go back time after time to deal with the Egyptian King. You and I need to face our impossibilities with faith until God releases our miracle. We need to be like the woman and the judge in (Luke 18:1-8) persistently knocking until the answer comes.

Moses encountered another faith-building event after he experienced God in the burning bush. God gave Moses the spiritual insight and blueprints for Israel's deliverance. Then at a lodging place on the way (to Egypt), the Lord met Moses and was about to kill him (Exodus 4:24). Had it not been for Zipporah, Moses' wife circumcising his son and rubbing the blood of the foreskins upon the feet of Moses, God would have surely killed Israel's deliverer (Exodus 4:24-26). (This also speaks of the need for family involvement). Why would God give a powerful Heavenly assignment to Moses, and then threaten to take his life? Again it was a faith-hardening occurrence that propelled Moses into his purpose and destiny. It was his faith that God was after, not his charisma, abilities or credentials. God knew the only way Moses would fulfill His destiny was through **radical faith**. In essence the Lord had to take Egypt out of Moses before he could deliver the people out of their bondage. Does your miracle look as though it is not coming to pass? Be encouraged, the Lord's purpose is to cleanse you of a hardened heart; He is removing Egypt out of your life, and infusing you with hardened faith!

Like Thomas Edison, we should look at our issues and see fruitfulness in them instead of desolation. We will never see our miracles come to pass if we focus on the negative aspects of not receiving them. Even as the Lord dealt with Moses to use him for His purposes, He is equally dealing with us so He can propel us into our destiny. We must drive a stake into the ground today and declare this is the first day of our new beginning! Today the Lord is reversing our curse of barrenness and desolation, creating a fresh future for our church, families and for us!

Once we have firmly driven our stake into place, we will only be able to look back and see the mark of our new starting point.

### **Prophetic Act:**

Place the list of your impossibilities on the floor in front of you. Visualize a stake in your hand and then by a prophetic act drive the stake through your list of impossibilities, believing that you are creating a new starting point, leaving behind the past and looking to your future.

### **Pray:**

Father God, in the name of Jesus, I have perceived the process of my miracle from a wrong perspective. First, I thought, "why have I been chosen to walk this way"? Second, I've thought, "because this situation appears to have no resolution I have no choice but to live with it." Third, I have been angry because you allowed this malady or issue to affect my life. I never realized that you are teaching me how to respond to issues with patience that hardens my faith. Lord, I now see what you're doing in my life, and I thank you for every situation. Now I ask, from my new perspective of hardened faith that this issue be corrected. That all this time you have been waiting on me to stretch out my rod of authority to split the Red Sea for my impossibilities. Further, you have been waiting on me to command whatever doors are locked shut to be opened. Lord, I declare a miracle over every situation and I thank you for the answer. In Jesus name, amen!

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