Dear Open Door Family,

Have you ever been asked to do something and then when you do it, it all comes apart and nothing goes right? When that happens you just want to give up or quit or blame some one. Yet none of those responses is right. I have been reading about Moses. It is fascinating to listen in on the conversations he has with God. When God called him to go back to Egypt he argued and asked God to send anyone else but him. Finally, reluctantly he obeys and goes. After an initial warm greeting from the people who were excited to hear God still cared about them, things took a decided turn for the worse. So is it any wonder that even though God had said Pharaoh would harden his heart that Moses was discouraged. Pharaoh made life harder on ALL the Israelites. Their slave labor became very, very difficult. Listen to what Moses says to God at this point.

Exodus 5:22-23 *(NIV) Moses returned to the LORD and said, "O Lord, why have you brought trouble upon this people? Is this why you sent me? [23] Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has brought trouble upon this people, and you have not rescued your people at all."*

At that point God reassures Moses and speaks to him of what He is planning to do...

Exodus 6:9 *(NIV) Moses reported this to the Israelites, but they did not listen to him because of their discouragement and cruel bondage.*

But the people of Israel were discouraged and really did NOT want to hear what Moses had to say. After all, they bought into what he said about God initially and the only thing that happened was that EVERYTHING got worse. In the midst of all the complaints, the suffering that the people were going through, what does Moses do? God told him to go back to Pharaoh...

Exodus 7:6 *(NIV) Moses and Aaron did just as the LORD commanded them.*

You have got to absolutely LOVE that. Things are hard, people are complaining, nothing is going the way you hoped it would, but Moses does EXACTLY *"as the LORD commanded"*. Wow, what an amazing step of obedience.

PRAYER: Lord, God help me to be like Moses. Help me to do what You ask no matter what the circumstances may be. May I Trust You when I am discouraged, down, and want to quit. Help me NOT to quit but to keep on going, Trusting You for your Grace and Strength to keep on going.

Pastor Mark Kieft
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