

“The Plague of Locusts”
Exodus 10:1-20
(Preached at Trinity, March 11, 2007)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. God has now commanded Pharaoh numerous times, “Let My people go” but Pharaoh has continued in stiffnecked resistance. Beginning in **Chapter 7** God began a series of plagues designed as an act of judgment upon Pharaoh’s rebellious heart and also to show the impotence of the Egyptian gods while demonstrating the power and glory of the one true God. So far we’ve seen plagues one through seven.
2. We spent two weeks looking at the great plague of hail God sent upon the land of Egypt. Like the other plagues, this was a direct assault upon the Egyptian gods.

The Egyptians worshipped gods of the sky. The hail storm with thunder and terrible lightning declared the absence of their sky-gods.
3. This was a hail storm of unprecedented magnitude. Huge balls of ice fell from the sky and crashed to the earth bringing devastation to the entire country side. In addition, lightning flashed like never and the thunder was deafening. The storm went on and on with terrifying intensity.
4. Its no wonder that Pharaoh finally yielded before God. Finally, Pharaoh gave in and confessed his sin.

Exodus 9:27-28 – “And Pharaoh sent, and called for Moses and Aaron, and said unto them, I have sinned this time: the LORD *is* righteous, and I and my people *are* wicked. ²⁸ Intreat the LORD (for *it is* enough) that there be no *more* mighty thunderings and hail; and I will let you go, and ye shall stay no longer.”
5. But as we saw, Pharaoh’ heart was hard and his confession was superficial and temporary. It was based more upon his self-interests than any true interest in God. There was no desire to surrender the life and will to Him. There was no love for God and no desire to honor Him. There was no true hatred of sin. It was nothing more than a continuation of a sinful self-centered life.
6. As with every man who turns his heart against God, Pharaoh was growing more and more wicked and sinning more and more.

Exo. 9:34 – “And when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunders were ceased, he sinned yet more, and hardened his heart, he and his servants.”

 - A. Seven terrible plagues had left Egypt desolate. In spite of the great destruction and horrible suffering Pharaoh and his servants refused to bow before God.
 - B. As I pointed out last time this is what is so amazing about the lost condition of man. In spite of the suffering and misery that sin brings he continues his rebellion against God. In spite of God’s goodness and mercy, in spite of God’s overwhelming power he continues in rebellion. It is madness. It is in insanity. It is beyond all logic and reason.
7. As we saw last time, **Chapter 10** opens with God reminding Moses of His ultimate purpose in the plagues and the Exodus of Israel. He is doing it for His own glory, that His great name might be magnified, that in the generations to come they might know His great power and dominion. The greatness of God was to be taught to every generation.

Exodus 10:2 – “And that thou mayest tell in the ears of thy son, and of thy son's son, what things I have wrought in Egypt, and my signs which I have done among them; that ye may know how that I *am* the LORD.”

8. Now, God is about to bring the eighth plague upon Egypt, a swarm of locusts of unimaginable magnitude.

Exodus 10:5-6 – “And they shall cover the face of the earth, that one cannot be able to see the earth: and they shall eat the residue of that which is escaped, which remaineth unto you from the hail, and shall eat every tree which groweth for you out of the field: ⁶ And they shall fill thy houses, and the houses of all thy servants, and the houses of all the Egyptians; which neither thy fathers, nor thy fathers' fathers have seen, since the day that they were upon the earth unto this day. And he turned himself, and went out from Pharaoh.”

- A. Whatever vegetation that survived the hail would now be consumed by the locusts.
- B. Like the frogs in the second plague, the locusts would be everywhere. There could be no escape.
- C. Many Egyptians had had enough. They were absolutely convinced of God's almighty power.

Exodus 10:7 – “And Pharaoh's servants said unto him, How long shall this man be a snare unto us? let the men go, that they may serve the LORD their God: knowest thou not yet that Egypt is destroyed?”

9. Pharaoh was still unmoved in his stubbornness. As we've studied the plagues we've seen several comparisons of the heart of Pharaoh with the heart of every lost man. Tonight I want to direct your attention to another. In **Verse 3** Moses brings a message from God that could be spoken to every soul of lost humanity.

Exodus 10:3 – “And Moses and Aaron came in unto Pharaoh, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, How long wilt thou refuse to humble thyself before me? let my people go, that they may serve me.”

10. Tonight I want to examine Pharaoh's heart of pride and the pride of all of humanity. It is a universal condition. Before a man will come to God in repentance it demands that he be humbled.

- I. Pride has been greatest plague from the beginning and the cause of all sin

- A. It was the cause of Satan's rebellion and fall

Isaiah 14:12-14 – “How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! ¹³ For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.”

- B. It was the root cause of the fall of Adam

Genesis 3:4 – “And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.”

Genesis 3:6 – “And when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, and that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”

- C. It was the cause of the first murder
Genesis 4:3-4 – “And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.”
- D. This is Pharaoh’s problem
1. Pride was keeping Pharaoh from bowing. He had his reputation to uphold. He was Pharaoh
 2. He was used to everyone bowing before him. He would not bow before another, especially the God of the Hebrew slaves
- E. Pride is our chief problem. It characterizes all of lost humanity
1 John 2:16 – “For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”
Psalms 10:4 – “The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek *after God*: God *is* not in all his thoughts.”
Mark 7:21-23 – “For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, **pride**, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.”
1. We naturally have a high view of ourselves
 2. From an early age we love attention. Temper tantrums are an effort to establish our dominion. We learn early on how to boast, how to garner praise.
 3. We sin because we believe we know what will bring us the greatest pleasure. Nothing will stop us from satisfying our flesh.

II. What is God’s attitude towards Pride?

- A. God hates pride
Proverbs 8:13 – “The fear of the LORD *is* to hate evil: **pride**, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.”
Proverbs 6:16 – “These six *things* doth the LORD hate: yea, seven *are* an abomination unto him: A proud look . . .”
1. Pride causes a man to exalt himself above God. God will not share His glory with another.
Isaiah 48:11 – “. . . I will not give my glory unto another.”
Exodus 34:14 – “For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name *is* Jealous, *is* a jealous God:”
 2. No man will ever truly confess his wickedness as long as he sees himself as being so special and wonderful. He must see himself as a worm before the God of glory.
- B. The Bible says God resists the proud
1 Peter 5:5 – “. . . God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.”
“Resists” is from the word ἀντιτάσσομαι – also means “to oppose,” “to range in battle against”

1. Proud Pharaoh had spent his entire life building his kingdom – God was opposing him and laying his kingdom waste.
2. The proud person is trying to be successful – at home, at work, at school – God is opposing him

III. God demands that all men fall before His majesty.

A. When God saves us He changes our heart

1. Before God saves us we think our lives are most important, our ideas, our possessions. We have a high view of ourselves—“look at me, look at what I have, look at what I’ve done. I’m great, I’m wonderful”
2. When God saves us we come to a right understanding of ourselves.
 - a. God declares that you are but dust
Genesis 18:27 – “And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, which *am but* dust and ashes.”
Isaiah 40:15 – “Behold, the nations *are* as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing.”
 - b. God declares that your life is but a vapor
James 4:14 – “Whereas ye know not what *shall be* on the morrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”
3. Listen to Job speak. Listen to his understanding of himself and all men
Job 40:3-4 – “Then Job answered the LORD, and said, Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer thee? I will lay mine hand upon my mouth.”
Job 25:4-6 – “How then can man be justified with God? or how can he be clean *that is* born of a woman? ⁵ Behold even to the moon, and it shineth not; yea, the stars are not pure in his sight. ⁶ How much less man, *that is* a worm? and the son of man, *which is* a worm?” (רִמָּהּ rimmah – maggot)

B. God demands absolute allegiance

1. Our lives must be consumed in Him
2. Every thing that we think, say, and do must be for His glory
1 Corinthians 10:31 – “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”
3. Anything less is to rob God of what belongs to Him
4. When God tells Pharaoh “Let My people go” He is telling Pharaoh that they belong to Him. More important Pharaoh has to understand that he and all things belong to God.
5. When God begins to convict a man of sin there may be one particular sin that slays his heart. It is his darling sin, his precious sin, the most difficult to part with, yet God says, “Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.”
 - a. We can see this with the Rich Young Ruler. His darling was his wealth.
 - b. God demands submitting to Him in all things.

- C. The Perfect Picture of Humility is Christ.
1. The King of Kings came to earth as a servant
 2. The greatest demonstration of humility came as He went to the cross
Philippians 2:8 – “And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”
 3. Jesus had the power to crush those crucifying Him
Matthew 26:53 – “Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?”
 4. He willingly suffered at the hands of men
Isaiah 53:7 – “He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.”

Conclusion:

1. This is what God demands of us. He demands a dying to self. A sacrifice of self.
Matthew 16:24-25 – “Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. ²⁵ For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.”
2. Pharaoh’s problem was his pride. He wasn’t willing to part with anything for God. He wasn’t willing to humble himself before God. Even **Verse 16** is testimony to Pharaoh’s stubborn heart of pride.
Exodus 10:16 Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in haste; and he said, I have sinned against the LORD your God, and against you.
Pharaoh makes it clear. This is Moses’ God, not his God.
3. What about you? Is Christ your precious treasure? Have you forsake all for Him?
Thomas Watson – “So a humble saint takes the crown of honour from his own head and sets it upon Christ’s. And the reason is the love that he bears to Christ. Love can part with anything to the object loved. The humble saint loves Christ entirely, therefore can part with anything to him. He gives away to Christ the honour and praise of all he does.”
4. A love for Christ will cause us to hate our sin and will humble us before Him. It will lead us to abhor ourselves before Him.
5. This is the essence of the Beatitudes. They teach this great humbling effect of meeting God.
Matthew 5:3-5 – “Blessed *are* the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Blessed *are* they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. ⁵ Blessed *are* the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.
6. For the believer the earth is ours. Ours to have, ours to give away.
The lost man spends his entire life trying seize the earth through aggression, power, and strength.
The believer submits himself to God. He surrenders his life, his will, his possessions. He submits to God’s Law, His will, His purposes.
7. Does this describe you? If not how long will you refuse to humble yourself? How long will you continue in sin. God commands you to surrender yourself to Him.