

“I Will Not”  
Exodus 6:9  
(Preached at Trinity, November 26, 2006)

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. As we’ve seen, Moses was disappointed that Pharaoh didn’t immediately respond to his message from God. He was angered that Pharaoh actually increased the burden of Israel and the people actually turned against Moses. Moses blames God, but God patiently deals with Moses.
2. God spoke graciously to Moses giving words of great comfort and encouragement. We saw that the basis of this comfort rested in two areas –
  - The name of God – **Verses 2-3** (YAHWEH & GOD ALMIGHTY)
  - God’s covenant – we are His chosen people. In spite of the difficulties we experience along the way God will sustain us until the end.
3. In **Verses 6-8** God further states His covenantal promises. He speaks emphatically. He says “I will” seven times in these verses. In these verses God gave four promises regarding the salvation of His people.
  - A. God promises liberation – **Verse 6**  
“I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians”  
“I will rid you out of their bondage”
    - a. God has promised liberty to His people
    - b. This has ultimately been fulfilled by Christ. Jesus has delivered His people from their chains
  - B. God promises redemption – **Verse 6**  
“I will redeem you with a stretched out arm”:
    - a. Jesus has acted as our kinsman redeemer
    - b. By right He has delivered us and we are his
  - C. God promises adoption – **Verse 7**  
“I will take you to me for a people”  
“I will be to you a God: and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD your God”
    - a. God promised to make Israel His people and He would be their God  
God’s promises to the nation Israel were conditional
    - b. In the New Covenant God promises to move upon His people with irresistible power and keep them
  - D. God promises possession – **Verse 8**  
“And I will bring you in unto the land”  
“I will give it you for an heritage: I *am* the LORD.”  
God’s ultimate fulfillment of His promise is to Abraham’s true offspring – The offer of an eternal home.
5. Moses goes to share these things with Israel. These things were wonderful to hear. God promises them liberation, redemption, adoption, and a possession but they would not hear. God says, “I will” in essence they said, “I will not.”  
**Exodus 6:9** – “And Moses spake so unto the children of Israel: but they hearkened not unto Moses for anguish of spirit, and for cruel bondage.”

6. God has been gracious to fallen humanity. His goodness is infinite in its greatness, yet men will not have Him.  
**Romans 2:4** – “Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?”  
<sup>ESV</sup> **Romans 2:4** – “Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?”
7. The Gospel is the most wonderful message ever heard. It is a message of deliverance and restoration. It is a message of hope for fallen humanity.  
 God has graciously offered His grace to all men but all men by their very nature cry out, “I will not have it.” Most people say, “That’s nice, but I’m not interested.”
8. As Christians we are amazed by this. How could someone turn away from Christ uninterested? We see it all around us. They may politely listen or they may angrily turn away but the end is the same. The gospel is offered to the world and they say, “I will not have it.” Why?
- I. Our text gives us the chief reason - Unbelief  
 “but they hearkened not unto Moses for anguish of spirit, and for cruel bondage.”
- A. They couldn’t see beyond their present situation
1. All they could see was this present life – the cruel bondage
  2. They couldn’t see beyond what they could see and touch
  3. They awakened each day to cruel bondage and that is all they could see
  4. Moses was presenting to them the way of deliverance but they could not believe
- B. This is the condition of all of humanity
1. They cannot see beyond this life
  2. This earth and all of its riches and ways is all they know
  3. We present them a life that is beyond this life but they cannot see it.
    - a. This life is a futile life – the slaves of Egypt woke up, labored from sunrise to sunset, went to bed and then began again – until they died.
    - b. The lost man spends his days in vanity and emptiness. One day begins and another begins – it continues until he dies.
  4. They know nothing of an eternal purpose, of the meaning of this life – it is all vain  
**Ecclesiastes 1:2-3** – “Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all *is* vanity. <sup>3</sup> What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun?”
    - a. In other words, what is the value of all of our activity in this life?
    - b. Without God’s approval of it it is all useless – of no profit.
- C. This unbelief stems from our spiritual depravity
1. We are blind in our wills, our emotions, and our minds

Westminster Larger Catechism:

**Q. 25.** Wherein consisteth the sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell?

**A.** The sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell, consisteth in the guilt of Adam's first sin, the want of that righteousness wherein he was created, and the corruption of his nature, whereby he is utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite unto all that is spiritually good, and wholly inclined to all evil, and that continually; which is commonly called *original sin*, and from which do proceed all actual transgressions.

2. We are born with a natural blindness about spiritual things. By nature we would rather seek those things which we can see.
3. Israel was completely governed by sight
  - a. In **Chapter 4** we saw they believed when they saw the miracles that Moses and Aaron performed  
**Exodus 4:31** – “And the people believed: and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped.”
  - b. Now they see hardship and they refuse to hear
4. This is why we must be so careful in how we deal with men’s hearts
  - a. We NEVER preach to the emotions. We must never appeal to the flesh. It is popular today to create what they call “seeker friendly services.” They want music just like people listen to outside the church. They want the dress to be casual. They want the sermon to be light so the lost man will feel right at home.
    - (1) Worship is NOT a casual meeting – we are coming into the presence of the living God.  
**Exodus 3:5** – “And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest *is* holy ground.”  
**Exodus 19:10-11** – “And the LORD said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them to day and to morrow, and let them wash their clothes, <sup>11</sup> And be ready against the third day: for the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai.”
    - (2) Worship is an activity of the saints. Worship services should maintain a focus upon God, not on how lost people might feel comfortable.
  - b. We are not seeking a momentary interest in religion but a change in heart.  
 This is a work of the Holy Spirit. For a man to abandon the bondage of his sin and turn to Christ demands divine intervention.

## II. A love of sin

- A. As terrible as their life was they were not willing to leave it
1. They were being promised a new life, a better life -- liberation, redemption, adoption, and a possession
  2. As incomprehensible as it is to understand, they had become attached to their bondage. Remember again how fondly they remembered it even after their liberation.  
**Numbers 11:5** – “We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick:”
  3. Human beings are in terrible bondage to sin. They cannot escape it, even if they try. (Illustration of the alcoholic that recently visited after two years)
- B. The lost man truly loves his sin
- John 3:19-20** – “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov’d.”
- 2 Timothy 3:1-5** – “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. <sup>2</sup> For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, <sup>4</sup> Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; <sup>5</sup> Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”
1. Sin is pleasurable to the flesh – that is the draw of sin. It satisfies our sinful desires.
  2. Our sinful heart is never satisfied.
- C. The lost man is also truly enamored by this world
1. The love of this world will result in eternal damnation for multitudes  
**1 John 2:15-16** – “Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> 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.”
  2. Many a religious man will be drawn back into its bondage  
**Matthew 13:22** – “He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.”

### III. A rejection of God and His Word

- A. Moses repeats the wonderful words of God but they would not have it
1. They were words of hope, words of exceeding great promises
  2. They would not hear  
**Exodus 6:9** – “but they hearkened not unto Moses”
  3. They were not rejecting Moses – they were rejecting God  
**Exodus 16:8** – “. . . the LORD heareth your murmurings which ye murmur against him: and what *are* we? your murmurings *are* not against us, but against the LORD.”  
**1 Samuel 8:7** – “And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.”
- B. When our Gospel message is rejected they are not rejecting us but God  
**John 13:20** – “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.”
1. The reason people will not have Christ is because they will not have God  
**Mark 9:37** – “Whosoever shall receive one of such children in my name, receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me, receiveth not me, but him that sent me.”
  2. By nature we hate God, we despise His law, we reject His rule

#### Conclusion:

1. Israel did not hearken to Moses because they could not. They could not grasp the spiritual truths spoken by God – and they could not believe them.
2. The same problem continues to plague men today. Human beings are blind. They cannot hear the words of life. But when God stirs them spiritually; when He awakens their cold dead hearts they are enabled to hear.  
**John 5:24-25** – “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. <sup>25</sup> Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.”
3. God would indeed deliver Israel by His power and by His might. God will save His own.