

# ***When Life Stinks***

***PASTOR DAVE NICODEMUS • EXODUS 5***

*Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the people of Israel.*

*Aaron spoke all the words that the Lord had spoken to Moses and did the signs in the sight of the people.*

*And the people believed; and when they heard that the Lord had visited the people of Israel and that He had seen their affliction, they bowed their heads and worshiped.*

*Afterward Moses and Aaron went and said to Pharaoh,  
“Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, ‘Let My people go, that  
they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness.’”*

*But Pharaoh said, “Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, and moreover, I will not let Israel go.”*

*Then they said, “The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Please let us go a three days’ journey into the wilderness that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God, lest He fall upon us with pestilence or with the sword.”*

*But the king of Egypt said to them, “Moses and Aaron, why do you take the people away from their work? Get back to your burdens.”*

*And Pharaoh said, “Behold, the people of the land are now many, and you make them rest from their burdens!”*

*The same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters of the people and their foremen,*

*“You shall no longer give the people straw to make bricks, as in the past; let them go and gather straw for themselves.”*

**Exodus 5:7**

*“But the number of bricks that they made in the past you shall impose on them, you shall by no means reduce it, for they are idle. Therefore they cry, ‘Let us go and offer sacrifice to our God.’”*

*“Let heavier work be laid on the men that they may labor at it and pay no regard to lying words.”*

**Exodus 5:9**

*So the taskmasters and the foremen of the people went out and said to the people, “Thus says Pharaoh, ‘I will not give you straw.’”*

*“Go and get your straw yourselves wherever you can find it, but your work will not be reduced in the least.”*”

**Exodus 5:11**

*So the people were scattered throughout all the land of Egypt to gather stubble for straw.*

*The taskmasters were urgent, saying, “Complete your work, your daily task each day, as when there was straw.”*

*And the foremen of the people of Israel, whom Pharaoh's taskmasters had set over them, were beaten and were asked, "Why have you not done all your task of making bricks today and yesterday, as in the past?"*

*Then the foremen of the people of Israel came and cried to Pharaoh, “Why do you treat your servants like this?”*

*“No straw is given to your servants, yet they say to us, ‘Make bricks!’ And behold, your servants are beaten; but the fault is in your own people.”*

*But he said, “You are idle, you are idle; that is why you say,  
‘Let us go and sacrifice to the Lord.’”*

*“Go now and work. No straw will be given you, but you must still deliver the same number of bricks.”*

*The foremen of the people of Israel saw that they were in trouble when they said, “You shall by no means reduce your number of bricks, your daily task each day.”*

*They met Moses and Aaron, who were waiting for them, as they came out from Pharaoh;*

*and they said to them, “The Lord look on you and judge, because you have made us stink in the sight of Pharaoh and his servants, and have put a sword in their hand to kill us.”*

*Then Moses turned to the Lord and said, “O Lord, why have You done evil to this people? Why did You ever send me?”*

*“For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in Your name, he has done evil to this people, and You have not delivered your people at all.”*

**Exodus 5:23**

**From Hope to Confidence (4:29–31)**

**From Confidence to  
Disappointment (5:1–5)**

**From Disappointment to  
Despair (5:6–18)**

# **From Despair to Blame (5:19–23)**

*Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,*

**James 1:2**

*for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.*

**James 1:3**

*And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*

*In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials,*

*so that the tested genuineness of your faith — more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire — may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

*Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted...*

**When disappointment defines  
your experience, you can trust the  
One who keeps His promises.**

**God is too good to be unkind and He is too wise to be mistaken. And when we cannot trace His hand, we must trust His heart.**

**Charles Spurgeon**

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