

## Sermon Handout

### “Challenging God”

Exodus 10:1-20

- I.** The narrative
  - A.** God’s purpose stated again vv. 1-2  
“That they may know . . .”  
Now extended to future Israelites (*cf.* 12:24-27)  
Josh 2:9-10; I Sam 4:8; Ps 105:26-38
  - B.** Pharaoh losing moral and governing authority vv. 3-7  
Moses: you have no humility before God  
Servants: let them go . . . Egypt is being destroyed  
The priests 9:11; the people 9:20  
Now the court servants v. 7
  - C.** Pharaoh tries to compromise and bargain vv. 8-11  
“men” in v. 7 and in v. 11 are different words  
Pharaoh restricts the worship occasion to men only  
This is unacceptable, shown by what follows
  - D.** The judgment/sign falls on Egypt vv. 12-15  
No further warning is given; the sign falls on Egypt  
Thus God himself rejects Pharaoh’s compromise
  - E.** Pharaoh’s phony repentance vv. 16-20  
Admission of “sin” v. 16 (*cf.* 9:27)  
“Take away this death” v. 17 (*see* Prov 8:34-36)  
Pharaoh’s repentance is false (no fruit) v. 20  
Once again, Pharaoh sins against God’s mercy
- II.** Key lessons from the Eighth Sign
  - A.** The hardening of hearts (two different words used)  
A shell of hardness 4:21; 9:12  
Made dull, deaf to God’s Word 7:14; 8:15, 32; 10:1  
In 10:1, not only Pharaoh, but his court  
Moses et al. are not to be hard, but to remember v. 2
  - B.** God’s dealing with rebellious authority (*see* Jas 3:1-2)  
Ultimately God grants no slack to the rebellious
  - C.** The problem of repentance – it must demonstrate fruit  
*See* Mt 3:6-8; Heb 12:11. (*cf.* Lk 13:1-9)