

This week we are considering the reality of the power of evil: in Moses' world in Exodus 7, in light of some New Testament passages, and with regard to our own world. In our current world we have a strange dichotomy where there are many movies, books, and popular TV shows about the power of evil, ghosts, etc. However, outside of those stories we seldom think that evil has a power that we must reckon with. Yet, we turn often to the power of money, education, the "American Dream," therapy, the comforting/inspiring/exciting/refreshing power of TV, music, or movies without considering what the Bible warns us about. Some days this week we will take a sober look at power of this evil. On other days we will consider the greater power of God. In Day #4 we will tie this together (so, try to persevere to Day #4!)

Day #1

- 1) Read Exodus 7. We'll be reading this chapter almost every day. So, read carefully, but don't feel like you have to process everything on this first reading
- 2) Read v 1-10 again. As you read, try to put yourself in Moses and Aaron's shoes. Read one verse at a time and consider, "*If I was Moses, what would I be thinking or feeling?*" Consider this for each verse before you move on and reflect how your thoughts and feeling might change from verse to verse.
- 3) Read verse 11-12 & verse 21-23 again. What does the text tell us about the power of evil?
- 4) Consider your own life and the world around you. Where do you think there has been or is a power at work that's more than just brokenness (i.e., individual failure or sin)?
 - a. How does the reality of evil's power change things? (Ask yourself, "if there was no evil power in the world, how would (my) life be different?")
 - b. Is this something you think about or consider often or seldom?
- 5) Enter into God's presence and ask him to protect you from the power of the Evil One today.

Day #2

- 1) Read Exodus 7
- 2) Read again verse 12 and v 22-25. In both instances how do we see that the power of God is greater or that the power of Evil is limited (in v24-25 consider what the magicians couldn't do).
- 3) Take some time to enter into the presence of the God who is more powerful than evil and worship him.
 - a. How ought you enter his presence?
 - b. Who is he?
 - c. How does this impact you?
 - d. Worship him
- 4) Consider writing out a prayer of worship for this week
 - a. in light of who God is
 - b. with respect to how you need, forget, or are impacted by God's power.
- 5) Close with a time of worship using Exodus 15:1-21
- 6) Ask yourself, how am I entering this day differently because of my time in his Word and presence today?

Day #3

- 1) Read the following 3 passages (1 Corinthians 2:12, Ephesians 2:1-3, and 1 John 4:1-3). As you read each one, write down:
 - a. What do they say about the presence of evil in the world
 - b. What do they say about its power?
 - c. What do they say about the impact, consequences, and path of this evil?
 - d. What is the key in discerning whether a "power" or "spirit" is God's or godly?
- 2) Take some time to enter review your answer above and let them lead you into prayer: prayers of praise & thanksgiving and also prayers for you, your world, and your church.
- 3) Take some time in silence to ask God to show you how and where you turn to the (evil) power of the spirit of this world in order to make your life work
- 4) Close by reflecting again on Ephesians 2:1-3. Both on the reality of Evil and the power of God. In what ways are you tempted to return to the things of verse 3? Close by take some time to talk to God about this and ask him to help you stay off of this path and to rescue you when you return to it.

Day #4

- 1) Read Ephesians 2:1-3 again and then re-read and reconsider Exodus 7 in light of what Ephesians 2 says about the prince of the power of the air.
- 2) Consider the power that Pharaoh had access to:
 - a. Consider how Pharaoh's gods required sacrifice.
 - b. Consider how Pharaoh's power required dependence on his god's.
 - c. Consider how the power of Pharaoh was limited.
- 3) Take some time to consider the "spirit of the world" today:
 - a. The power that it does have
 - b. The promises that it does make
 - c. The sacrifices that it requires

Consider things like money, education, the American Dream, therapy, success, image, the comfort, titillation, or excitement of TV/Movies/Books/Music.
- 4) Ask God to show you were you trusting in, sacrificing to, and depending on these false gods for their power to make your life work out as you want it to.
- 5) Read 1 John 4:1-3. Consider how, in the gospel, Jesus is the one who made the sacrifice in order to restore you.
- 6) God's power is greater than the power of evil. In addition to that, he loves you, whereas the evil power of the spirit of this world has no love for you. Take some time to enter into repentance and worship before your powerful and loving father.

Day #5

- 1) Read Exodus 7:1-2 and reflect on what God says to Moses about who he will be like.
- 2) Bearing this in mind, read the rest of Exodus 7 and consider Moses' various experiences of what it was like to be God.
- 3) What is it like to be God?

- 4) Consider what it's like for God to be your God in light of the insight of Exodus 7. Take some time to write down your thoughts and reflections on this.
- 5) How do you want to respond to this?