

Monday, June 14th

Read

Exodus, Chapter 9

Reflect

Here's the lie: some lives matter more than others. That's the lie that Pharaoh tells himself throughout the plagues in Exodus 9. Verse 17 God says to Pharaoh, "you are still exalting yourself against my people, and will not let them go." Pharaoh isn't just exalting the Egyptians over the Hebrews, he's exalting himself and his will over God and God's will. Again and again, God commands and Pharaoh disobeys. Pharaoh practices hardening his heart toward the Hebrews and God. In chapter 9 we see Moses' habit of obedience right alongside Pharaoh's habit of hardening his heart. Pharaoh practices no empathy for the Hebrew people, no respect or recognition of their God, and stubbornly holds tightly to his way of doing things as well as his worldview. God offers us opportunities too just like Moses offers Pharaoh. God offers us chances to let the Hebrew people go. If we practice obedience to God's will and make a habit of saying yes to God's invitations, then we will not be led by our preferences, norms, or worldview. Instead, we will be led by the living God. We will join in Christ's continuing ministry of reconciliation in the world. We will be ambassadors of the kingdom of heaven rather than citizens of this one. God will use us to destroy the lie that some lives matter more than others. Pharaoh's practice of saying no to God forms a habit that's hard for Pharaoh to break. Even when his heart softens for a moment, his habit of selfish disobedience hardens his heart again. We have choice to make. We can be like Moses and practice obedience or we can be like Pharaoh and practice hardening our hearts.

Respond

What has God been calling you to do again and again? Have you been practicing disobedience? Have you made a habit of hardening your heart toward God's invitations to you? What would it look like to practice saying yes? What would it look like for you to make a habit of saying yes to God's love, God's call, and God's grace for you and those around you?

Pray

Gracious and loving God, convict me with your grace when my heart is hard toward you. Enliven me with a spirit of boldness when my heart is soft toward your call. Wake up my creativity and courage to recognize and participate in the freedom you have offered me and the world through your son my savior Jesus Christ. In whose saving name I pray. Amen.