

THE ART OF COMPROMISE

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Exodus 8:25-28**. From Roy H. Enoch (01/23/1994).
- B. Men become so accustomed to negotiating compromises with each other, that they also expect to do the same with God.
 - 1. The more self-centered that we become, the less submissive we are.
 - 2. Our humanistic culture emphasizes putting self first, and that man is the greatest accident of all evolution.
 - 3. Therefore it is not surprising that most men feel that they can bargain even with God.
 - 4. The more self-centered we are, the harder is to become God-centered and submissive.
- B. The story of Pharaoh resisting the commands of God is all too typical of our reactions.
 - 1. God is clear in His requirements of us.
 - 2. God is merciful in His love and wants us to avoid the consequences of our mistakes.
 - 3. He shows us the way to live that will bring us the greatest joy here and for eternity.
 - 4. But in our ignorance and self-centeredness, we are often determined to have our own way, as is illustrated by Pharaoh (Ex. 5:2).
- C. As God began to show His power with signs through Moses, Pharaoh began to seek compromises.
 - 1. We want to look at the proposals to compromise.
 - 2. We want to also look at modern efforts to do the same.

I. PHARAOH'S REACTIONS TO GOD'S COMMANDS ARE TYPICAL OF MANY TODAY.

- A. God was very specific in what was commanded (Ex. 5:3).
 - 1. God is still specific (Lk. 13:3-5):
 - a. "He that believes and is baptized shall be saved."
 - b. "...narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."
 - c. "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."
 - d. "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."
- B. Man is still rebellious.
 - 1. Pharaoh rebelled (Ex. 5:2).
 - 2. Many give the same answer today: "No way!" "I don't see any reason in it!" "I don't think it is necessary!"
 - 3. Pharaoh was also vindictive (Ex. 5:7,8).
- C. When God brought plagues upon Egypt, Pharaoh suggested compromise.
 - 1. After the fourth plague, Pharaoh made the first concession (Ex. 8:25).
 - 2. Moses said that they could not sacrifice in the land, so Pharaoh made a second concession (Ex. 8:28). Many still want to stay close to the world.
 - 3. After four more plagues (death of livestock, boils on man animals, hail with fire and locusts), Pharaoh said: "Who is going?" (Ex. 10:9,11).
 - 4. After the ninth plague (darkness), Pharaoh said (see Ex. 10:24).
- D. The spirit of compromise seems to be a rebellion by the determination to stay in control.
 - 1. There is still a desire to do as we want as long as possible.
 - 2. It is the refusal to do as Jesus said (Mt. 16:24-25).
 - 3. We do not want to turn loose of self, and submit to another.
 - 4. Only when there is a recognition of our own helplessness do we yield to another.
 - a. Only after the death of every first-born Egyptian, did Pharaoh see his own helplessness (Ex. 12:31-32).
 - b. But even remorse is sometimes short-lived (Ex. 14:5-7).

**II. WE MUST REALIZE OUR OWN HELPLESSNESS
IN ORDER TO COMPLETELY SURRENDER TO THE LORD'S WILL.**

- A. Men still resist God's commands:
 - 1. "We can do anything that God does not specifically forbid."
 - a. But God tells us to not add to or take from his will.
 - b. In the past God punished those who did what He did not command (Lev. 10:1,2).
 - c. Paul instructed the Colossians about singing (Col. 3:16-17):
 - 1) We can only do "in the name of the law" what the law authorizes.
 - 2) We can only do "in the name of the Lord" what the Lord authorizes.
 - 3) To add what the Lord did not command is to commit the sin of Nadab and Abihu.
 - 4) That is as bad as not doing what He commands.
 - d. To change what God says in any way is to do as we please.
- B. We need to pray that we will trust the Lord enough to believe that His way is best.
- C. We need to love Him enough that we want to please Him.

CONCLUSION.

- A. The temptation to want our own way is common to man.
- B. It is characteristic of self-centeredness.
- C. It is walking by sight rather than faith in the Lord.
- D. Let us accept what God says and do it.