

The Ten Plagues (Part 2)

Exodus 9:13-26

How do you view the plagues in your life? Are they mere dangerous happenings that seek to threaten your physical life? Are they instruments by which God draws you to Himself when you see more of Him and thus puts you in your place? Do you use the plagues in your life for good and see them with eternal benefits or just view them as bad and having a temporary effect? Do you ultimately see the circumstances of your life purposed to 'show you His power'?

1. Even though the plagues of Egypt were the result of the hardness of Pharaoh's heart, how should the Israelites have viewed the plagues? How should they have been responding to God during these days?
2. Since these plagues were clearly the result of Pharaoh's hardness of heart, do you think battling through bitterness and resentment would have been commonplace among the Israelites in their view of Pharaoh and the Israelites. Talk about how it might be difficult for you to live through hard circumstances and yet guard your heart from bitterness towards others and toward God.
3. How important is it to survive the plagues and keep a grateful heart? Think through the 'plagues' of your life? Were you grateful in the midst of them because of what God wanted to produce in you for eternal purposes, or was it just about your temporary physical circumstances?
4. When difficult circumstances come your way, what is your usual default response? Is it worship or panic? Do you ever seek to see God's story unfolding in the context of discipline, suffering, trial or plague in your life? How would you like to train yourself to see things this way in the future? What can you do now to prepare your heart for unwelcome circumstances?
5. Is seeing God's power a goal in your life? Is that something that scares you; or do you draw near to that desire? If you are wrestling with wanting to see God's power or not, what is your reluctance based in? If you shun His power, what are you really saying to Him?
6. How have you seen God's mercy in your life in sparing you greater pain and hurt, but still bringing about circumstances in your life to get your attention? Do you see the mercy of God including difficulty and trial and discipline, or do you think those are two separate ends of the spectrum?
7. When God is enacting plagues of sorts in your own life and the very plague he has chosen is being used to affront your gods, do you welcome it? Are there plagues going on right now in you where God is intentionally attacking gods that you have set up against Him? How are you currently responding to Him? Is brokenness your starting point?