

**OUT OF EGYPT HAVE I CALLED MY SON**  
**Hosea 11: 1- 11; text: Matthew 2: 13- 14**  
**January 10, 2021**

**I. How God's People Became Imprisoned in Egypt**

**Hosea 11:1 (NIV)** "When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.

- A. Because God led them there, initially to save them from starvation, and then to build them up as a nation.**
- B. But also because of the hatred and evil despicable actions of Jacob's sons, who sold their brother Joseph into slavery after first toying with the idea of murdering him. (see Genesis 37: 12- 30)**

**Genesis 50:19-20 (ASV)** And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God? And as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.

- 1. We often skip over the part of Joseph's statement where he said, "you meant it for evil against me" and just look at the "God meant it for good part."**
- 2. But the evil in their hearts was still wrong and it kept bearing consequences.**
- 3. That evil came from their fathers and mothers who after God had blessed them and given them his promise, failed to trust him and often relied on their own cunning and even their deceit to get what for themselves what he had already promised.**
  - a. Abraham and Sarah didn't trust that God would give them the son he promised, so they decided that Abraham would try have a son through Sarah's servant Hagar. (see Genesis 16)**
  - b. Although God blessed them with two sons, Abraham and Sarah's decision resulted in grief and conflict for their family, a conflict that even has repercussions today.**
  - c. In the next generation, we have the story of Isaac's wife Rebekah and her son Jacob, who not trusting that God would give Jacob the blessing that he had promised to give him, scheme and deceive Isaac into giving him that blessing. (See Genesis 25:19-28 and Genesis 27)**
  - d. And that caused great harm to their family.**
- C. Failing to trust God, and trying to get what he has promised us through our own scheming and even by our own sin and deceit has consequences.**
  - 1. It copies the sin of our first parents, who listening to the serpent, distrusted and disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden.**
  - 2. We must never forget that all of the evil that has befallen humankind he stemmed from distrusting and disobeying God.**
  - 3. If our first parents had trusted God we would still be in Eden.**
  - 4. Although it is true that we can suffer terrible things that our sins did not directly cause, it is also true that we often do suffer because of our lack of faith and our disobedience.**

**Questions:**

- 1) In what way do I feel imprisoned, and how have I tried to deal with that?**
- 2) Do I agree that part of the reason that Israel was imprisoned in Egypt was the result of the sins of Jacob's sons and their ancestors? How were some of these sins caused by these people's failure to trust God? How did God still deal graciously with them in spite of their sin?**
- 3) How are Adam and Eve and all of us to blame for the tragedies we all suffer? How did Adam and Eve's sin result from their failure to trust God?**
- 4) What are some Biblical examples I can cite of people who suffered because of no direct sin or lack of faith on their part? What are some Biblical examples I can cite of people who suffered as a result of their own lack of faith and their disobedience against God?**
- 5) What sufferings have I endured because I sinned or did not trust God?**

**II. What God Has Done About It**

- A. God not only freed Israel, but in love adopted them as his children.**

**Hosea 11:1 (NIV)** "When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son

- B. That is exactly the message the Lord gave Moses to say to Pharaoh in Exodus 4: 22.**

**Exodus 4:22 (NIV)** Then say to Pharaoh, "This is what the LORD says: Israel is my firstborn son,

- 1. It is important to note that the firstborn son is not just any child.**
- 2. In that day, the firstborn son was the son who inherited control over his Father's property and household.**
- 3. God later gave Israel, his firstborn, the inheritance he had promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the land of Canaan.**
- C. In our text in Matthew 2, we find the final fulfillment of the words of Hosea 11: 1.**

1. **Evil King Herod wanted to destroy God's Messiah, but before he could do so God's angel warned Joseph to escape to Egypt.**

**Matthew 2:14-15 (NIV)** So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

2. **God sent his son Jesus to Egypt to show us that he left heaven's glory to not only share our humanity, but to share our imprisonment.**
3. **He did this, so that those who are one with him by faith might be freed to become children of God, and share in the blessings of his Sonship.**

**Galatians 4:3-7 (NIV)** So also, when we were children, we were in slavery under the basic principles of the world. But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

- a. **God's law explains why we have been enslaved or imprisoned.**
- b. **But Jesus came to free those who by faith are one with him from that law and from the consequences of our disobedience to it.**
- c. **He did this, first of all, by obeying that law perfectly himself.**
  - i. **He too was tempted in every way like as we are, but he never sinned.**
  - ii. **When we believe in him, we are credited with his righteousness.**
  - iii. **That is why in Philippians 3 Paul dismissed his own attempts at being righteous and depended on being righteous in Christ alone.**

**Philippians 3:9 (NIV)** and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.

- d. **Secondly, Christ also entered our Egyptian jail cell, and became obedient to death, even death on a cross, so that he might atone for our sins.**

**1 John 2:2 (NIV)** He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

**Questions:**

- 1) **What does God sending his Son to Egypt tell me about his love for me?**
- 2) **How does God's law help me discover the prison I am in? How has Christ freed me from that prison?**
- 3) **When I read Jesus' Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25: 14- 30), do I fear that I will appear emptyhanded before God on Judgment Day? How does my receiving the righteousness of Christ by faith assure me that I will not? How does my receiving the righteousness of Christ encourage me to further good works?**
- 4) **How does trusting in Christ's atonement (that his sacrifice covers my sin and saves me from God's wrath) free me from the prison my sins have put me in?**
- 5) **How do I become one with Christ and share in his inheritance? What have I inherited in Christ?**

### **III. The Love God Shows after His Redeemed Children Continue to Imprison Themselves**

- A. **Rather than live in freedom God's people Israel enslaved and imprisoned themselves again.**
  1. **In the wilderness before they entered the Promised Land, they rebelled against the very God who freed them and who was keeping them alive.**
  2. **God responded by leaving them imprisoned there for forty years.**
  3. **And then after they received their inheritance, they continued to mistrust God and turn to idols.**
  4. **God responded by sending the Assyrians who conquered them and scattered them as prisoners in foreign lands.**
- B. **In spite of God's goodness to us, we, God's people today, doubt him, we serve idols like money, worldly friends, power, and pleasure, and by our own actions we imprison ourselves again and again.**
  1. **And God allows to suffer the consequences and grief of that imprisonment.**
  2. **Yet, let us not forget that our scripture from Hosea and Matthew is not about our imprisoning ourselves; it is about God's love for us his people in spite of that.**
  3. **Today God the Holy Spirit calls us God's children out of our imprisonment.**
  4. **Today, he calls us to respond in the same way a wayward son in one of Jesus parables responded.**
  5. **And he assures us that our heavenly Father will respond as that son's father did.**

**Luke 15:20 (NIV)** So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

**What are you waiting for? The cell doors are open. Your Father is waiting for you with open arms.**

**Questions**

- 1) **How have I as a Christian, who has been redeemed by Jesus Christ, enslaved myself all over again? Since I have been redeemed why does God allow me to know the grief and enslavement caused by my sins and lack of faith?**
- 2) **How does hearing about God's continued love give me hope?**
- 3) **How does confessing my sin and realizing my enslavement help me to better know God's love?**