



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

God is Our Rescuer Series, Lesson 4

Lesson Title: God Always Wins

Take Home Point: God always wins.

Warm-Up:

Sometimes my children really want to do something I don't believe they should, or don't want to do what I've told them to do. And sometimes they try to argue with me about it. When this happens, I tell them right away that they won't win, so they shouldn't start a fight. Occasionally, that has the desired effect, but more often the resistance continues. I know as a child, I did the same thing, and I watch my children do it. But I don't really understand it – it didn't work when I was younger and it doesn't work now! I guess the desire to get our own way causes us to lose sight of reality, so we resist, even though we can't win.

Read: Exodus 7-11

Observation (What happened?):

What were the ten plagues that God sent against Egypt?

Why did the Lord harden Pharaoh's heart against the miracles God performed through Moses and Aaron?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What lesson do we learn about how God deals with the worship of someone or something other than him?

Do you think God took pleasure in sending the plagues against Egypt?

Insight:

Do you know why God sent the plagues against Egypt that he did? The first nine plagues absolutely countered the gods that Egypt worshipped, and the last destroyed the Egyptians' way to an afterlife. Osiris was the Nile god; turning the river to blood showed God ruled the river. Heka was the frog goddess; God turned the frogs against the Egyptians. Gnats from dust demonstrated that God ruled where Geb, the earth god, could not. And so it went, each plague corresponding to a false god. But the key to Egypt's religion was that the firstborn male was the only person who could communicate with souls in the afterlife. These souls of the dead prepared the way for the living to join them. When God killed the firstborn of the Egyptians, he eliminated any way for them to look to their ancestors for eternal life. Their entire system of religion was shown to be powerless in the face of the true God.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How are you hardening your own heart against what God wants you to start or stop doing? Do you think you will win?

Pray for our country's leaders to not harden their hearts toward God's Word.