

**GAMECHANGERS – PART THREE**  
**OUR PASSION FOR CHANGE**  
**EXODUS 1:8-14; 22; 2:10 - ©DR. LARRY L. THOMPSON (2010)**

**Introduction:**

In this series, **few messages I have prepared in my 35 years of ministry has had a greater influence on my life than my time of study with this word from the Lord.** I believe that everyone in this room recognizes an area in your life where you would like to change. It may be your work situation; your family; your marriage; your finances; your health; or even your relationship with the Lord. Every person in this room or those watching by webcast or listening to the podcast...**you knows right now what GAME CHANGING MOMENT YOU NEED IN YOUR LIFE. The question I have is “why don’t you change?”** What is keeping you from changing? The change is not going to come just by hoping things will get better. YOU HAVE TO BE WILLING TO FOLLOW THE GAMECHANGER OF YOUR LIFE AND UNDERSTAND THE PRINCIPLES NECESSARY TO HAVE YOUR SITUATION CHANGE!

**USE AUTISTIC BOY BASKETBALL VIDEO FOR GAMECHANGER:** The coach of this young man said, **“When Jason released the ball into the basket it was a GAMECHANGING MOMENT that touched the hearts of millions of people.”**

**SET THE STORY:** **Review the story of how the Jews got to Egypt**

Joseph has been sold into slavery by his brothers and winds up in Egypt where he begins as a slave in a very prominent man’s home by the name of Potiphar. He is falsely accused to attempted rape by Potiphar’s wife when he wouldn’t yield to her sexual advances and thrown in prison for 13 years. By God’s grace he is called before Pharaoh to interpret a dream and the leader is so impressed with the young man that he names him second in command of all of Egypt. Joseph tells Potiphar that God has revealed that there will be seven years of plenty followed by seven years of poverty and it is absolutely essential that you prepare for the “rainy day.” **Joseph must have attended Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University. Joseph honored the Lord and HE PREPARED DURING THE TIMES OF PLENTY SO THE NATION WOULD HAVE PLENTY IN TIMES OF POVERTY.**

**Jacob is now an old man and the famine has hit their land and they are on the verge of dying and he sends his sons, Joseph’s brothers, to Egypt to try and purchase some food.** The brothers come before Joseph, the prime minister, and of course do not recognize him after all these years and through a series of events he reveals himself to his family and tells them to bring his father and their family to live in Egypt and he will care for them. That is how the Jewish people wind up in Egypt. They multiply and they are blessed but they multiply to a place in a few generations where their numbers now become a threat to the Egyptian rulers. **“The Hebrews are getting more powerful and if get in a war they will overcome us. We must drive them into slavery and submission.”** They had

completely forgotten about Joseph and his leadership as he and his family has long since died. Now we pick up our story for today in **Exodus 1:8-14; 22; 2:10**

**“Eventually, a new king came to power in Egypt who knew nothing about Joseph or what he had done. <sup>9</sup> He said to his people, “Look, the people of Israel now outnumber us and are stronger than we are. <sup>10</sup> We must make a plan to keep them from growing even more. If we don’t, and if war breaks out, they will join our enemies and fight against us. Then they will escape from the country.” <sup>11</sup> So the Egyptians made the Israelites their slaves. They appointed brutal slave drivers over them, hoping to wear them down with crushing labor. They forced them to build the cities of Pithom and Rameses as supply centers for the king. <sup>12</sup> But the more the Egyptians oppressed them, the more the Israelites multiplied and spread, and the more alarmed the Egyptians became. <sup>13</sup> So the Egyptians worked the people of Israel without mercy. <sup>14</sup> They made their lives bitter, forcing them to mix mortar and make bricks and do all the work in the fields. They were ruthless in all their demands.” Exodus 1:8-14 (NLT)**

**“Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: “Throw every newborn Hebrew boy into the Nile River. But you may let the girls live.” Exodus 1:22 (NLT)**

**“About this time, a man and woman from the tribe of Levi got married. <sup>2</sup> The woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She saw that he was a special baby and kept him hidden for three months. <sup>3</sup> But when she could no longer hide him, she got a basket made of papyrus reeds and waterproofed it with tar and pitch. She put the baby in the basket and laid it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile River. <sup>4</sup> The baby’s sister then stood at a distance, watching to see what would happen to him. <sup>5</sup> Soon Pharaoh’s daughter came down to bathe in the river, and her attendants walked along the riverbank. When the princess saw the basket among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it for her. <sup>6</sup> When the princess opened it, she saw the baby. The little boy was crying, and she felt sorry for him. “This must be one of the Hebrew children,” she said. <sup>7</sup> Then the baby’s sister approached the princess. “Should I go and find one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?” she asked. <sup>8</sup> “Yes, do!” the princess replied. So the girl went and called the baby’s mother. <sup>9</sup> “Take this baby and nurse him for me,” the princess told the baby’s mother. “I will pay you for your help.” So the woman took her baby home and nursed him. <sup>10</sup> Later, when the boy was older, his mother brought him back to Pharaoh’s daughter, who adopted him as her own son. The princess named him Moses, for she explained, “I lifted him out of the water.” Exodus 2:1-10 (NLT)**

This is a story that is not only known to the Jews and to Christians but it is known to almost everyone, even those without a faith in God. **There have been movies made about the life of Moses and the people of God; we know about the Passover and the**

pilgrimage to the Promised Land. Everyone knows about Moses...a great GAMECHANGER. BUT WHAT WAS THE GAMECHANGING MOMENT IN MOSES' LIFE?

We could look at so many Gamechanger Principles from this story but today I want to focus on two very specific lessons and personal application. **THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF THE PREACHING OF THE WORD OF GOD IS THE APPLICATION.** There are many good communicators of the Gospel but the question that I force myself to ask each time I prepare to proclaim the word is this: **"WHAT IS THE TAKE-AWAY FROM TODAY'S TRUTH?" WHAT IS THE APPLICATION FOR MY LIFE AND FOR YOURS? WHAT DOES GOD USE IN OUR LIFE TO ALLOW US TO EXPERIENCE A GAMECHANGING MOMENT?**

## 1. PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCE

To a believer and followers of Christ I want you to see that from biblical truth... **"THE PASSION FOR A SPIRITUAL GAMECHANGING MOMENT IS OFTEN THE RESULT OF PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCE IN LIFE WHICH CAUSES US TO CRY OUT TO THE LORD."**

**EGYPT CROSSED A LINE.** When they saw the Hebrews multiplying they reacted to the threat. They not only made the Hebrews slaves and forced them into building great cities for Pharaoh but as if that were not enough they began to whip and beat the Hebrew people. **Some historians' tell us the smaller pyramids, the ones made with bricks, date back to the time of the Egyptian taskmasters who were torturing and mistreating the Hebrews who were forced into slave labor. They pushed them and pushed them and pushed them until they pushed them past a point where they could no longer take this inhumane treatment and THE HEBREWS DID SOMETHING THEY HAD NEVER DONE BEFORE... THEY CRIED OUT TO GOD! Their circumstances became unbearable and they had exhausted everything they could do and the only thing they had left to do was to CRY OUT TO THE LORD.**

We know this to be the case because 40 years ago Moses, who was raised in Pharaoh's house as a family member went into exile in the desert for killing an Egyptian. **Now 40 years later God meets this desert shepherd in Exodus 3:7 and speaks to him:**

**"Then the Lord told him, "I have certainly seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. *I have heard their cries of distress* because of their harsh slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering." Exodus 3:7 (NLT)**

We don't read about any corporate prayer or crying out to God by the people of God before this prayer. We know of individuals praying; Abraham prayed; Isaac prayed; Jacob prayed when he wrestled with the angel. HOWEVER, **NOW...THERE IS A PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCE THAT CAN NOT BE DEALT WITH IN THEIR OWN STRENGTH AND**

**THEY GO PAST THE POINT OF WHAT IS POSSIBLE IN THEIR POWER AND THEY “CRY OUT TO GOD!”**

**WHEN YOU FACE PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES SO GREAT THAT YOU REALIZE THERE ARE NO HORIZONTAL ANSWERS OR SOLUTIONS TO YOUR PROBLEMS THEN YOU HAVE ONLY ONE OPTION; YOU MUST GO VERTICAL!**

**Whenever God’s people go vertical it moves the heart of God and suddenly He sets a GAMECHANGING MOMENT INTO MOTION. GOD SAID, “I HAVE HEARD THEIR CRY!”**

Please notice, **this does not say, “I heard them praying.”** There is a difference between our normal daily prayers, which are absolutely essential to our personal growth and intimacy with Christ **and our times of personal crisis when our circumstances demand that we CRY OUT TO GOD.** You show me a husband who has been told his wife of many years is dying with cancer and I’ll show you a man ready to cry out to God; you show me a couple whose marriage is at the point of breaking and I’ll show you at least one of the partners who is CRYING OUT TO GOD; you show me a family who is suffering because their child is on drugs or involved in great immorality and I will show you believers who know how to CRY OUT TO GOD.

**THERE WERE NO OTHER ANSWERS TO THEIR PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES... THE ONLY OPTION WAS TO GO VERTICAL AND THEY CRIED OUT TO GOD.**

I believe that God uses those times in our lives when we realize we are facing personal circumstances so horrific that we are forced to realize we can’t fix this problem...we must go vertical and cry out to God. **“UNLESS YOU ANSWER THIS PRAYER WE DON’T HAVE A CHANCE!”**

Think about the power of these words, **“When I heard their cry...”** Those of you who are **parents...how do you respond when you hear the sudden cry** that you know is not normal in the life of your child...it is the cry of pain...they cry for immediate attention. **How do you respond?**

**TELL STORY OF PHONE CALL FROM JEN AT THE SCENE OF A HORRIFIC ACCIDENT YEARS AGO. “Daddy come quick.”** There is something about our child’s cry that once it hits the parent’s ears they stop whatever they are doing and focus all their power and energy to attempt to bring a GAMECHANGING MOMENT to that situation.

Do you think when I heard that cry from our daughter I said, **“Let me think about this...has she been good enough for me to help her? What has she done for us lately?”** Absolutely not...when we heard the cry we jumped into action, took our savings and chartered a jet to get us to Virginia the fastest way possible. WHY? THE CRY MOTIVATES THE ONE WHO LOVES YOU MORE THAN LIFE.

## 2. PERSONAL SURRENDER (Ex. 2:1-3)

“About this time, a man and woman from the tribe of Levi got married. <sup>2</sup> The woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She saw that he was a special baby and kept him hidden for three months. <sup>3</sup> But when she could no longer hide him, she got a basket made of papyrus reeds and waterproofed it with tar and pitch. She put the baby in the basket and laid it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile River.”

### **LET'S BACK UP...WHAT PART DID THE MOTHER OF MOSES PLAY IN THIS STORY?**

Think for a moment about the personal circumstance that this family was facing. Pharaoh had already issued a law saying that any Hebrew boy that was born was to be killed. They were to be thrown into the Nile River. Can you imagine the pain of every Hebrew family the moment they realized the wife was pregnant and knowing that you would live with that precious child in your womb for nine months knowing that the gender of the child would determine if that child lives or dies. The mother and father of Moses must have suffered tremendously over that nine months waiting for the birth of their child. Suddenly the time has arrived and their worst fears are realized. They have a son. For three months she tried to hide him, waiting on God to do something to deliver their son from death. Finally she decides if she is to put him in the Nile she will provide for him to at least live for a short time. She makes the basket; waterproofs the basket; places a blanket in the basket and still God has done nothing to move on her behalf and save her child. **IT IS NOT UNTIL SHE SURRENDERS THAT CHILD AND COMPLETELY LET'S GO THAT WE BEGIN TO SEE THAT MAKING OF A GAMECHANGING MOMENT AND GOD BEGINS TO WORK.**

He controlled the current, the animals, and the alligators and also put it on Pharaoh's daughter's heart that it was time for her to come and bathe in the Nile. **She sees the basket, God puts pity on her heart for the Baby and suddenly we have a GAMECHANGING MOMENT AND MOSES COMES ONTO THE SCENE.**

**THERE CAN BE NO GAMECHANGING MOMENT UNTIL WE SURRENDER.** We pray “God I give you my burden” only to take that burden back and we wonder why we have no game changing moment. All the powers of God begin to operate the moment she surrendered and let her burden go.

**AS LONG AS SHE HELD TIGHT TO HER BURDEN AND DID EVERYTHING SHE COULD DO TO SAVE HER SON...NOTHING HAPPENED EXCEPT THAT HER BURDEN GREW.**

**Some of you are losing sleep at night because you are worrying about a situation that you cannot change.** You are desperate for a GAME CHANGING MOMENT but you won't let go of the burden and then you wonder why God has not intervened on your behalf.

I don't think if anyone was walking by and seeing a woman simply release a basket into the river that they would have thought that have any big impact on the world and yet it was that moment of surrender that put God in action and the Game changing moment was realized. **WHEN YOU LET IT GO, SURRENDER YOUR BURDEN AND TELL THE LORD, "I CAN'T HANDLE THIS ANYMORE. I RELEASE IT TO YOU."**

**CONCLUSION:**

**WHAT IS THE PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCE THAT YOU MUST CRY OUT TO GOD FOR YOUR GAME CHANGING MOMENT?**

**WHAT IS THE BURDEN YOU MUST SURRENDER THAT WILL ENABLE THE GAME CHANGER OF YOUR SOUL TO MOVE IMMEDIATELY ON YOUR BEHALF? The coach of the young autistic basketball star said, "As soon as hit let go into the basket everything changed." SOME SHOULD PUT YOUR LIFE IN THE BASKET. GIVE HIM YOUR LIFE. Prayer.**