

One More Night With The Frogs

Aaron Beard
Trussville
Oct 23, 2011

Introduction: (Scripture Reading: Exodus 8:5-11)

- A. May 8, 1902 may mean nothing to us, but that day marked the end for 30,000 people who lived on the French island of Martinique in the Mediterranean. A terrible disaster that could've been avoided!**
1. At 8:02 am on May 8, 1902 the volcano Mt. Pelee erupted: In the morning, people were observing the fireworks the mountain was displaying. The night [shift telegraph](#) operator was sending the reports of the volcano's activity, to the operator at Fort-de-France, claiming no significant new developments; his last transmission was "Allez", handing over the line to the remote operator. It was 8:02^[1], the next second, the telegraph line went dead. A [cable](#) repair ship had the city in direct view; the upper mountainside ripped open and a dense black cloud shot out horizontally.^[1] A second black cloud rolled upwards, forming a gigantic [mushroom cloud](#) and darkening the sky in a 50-mile (80 km) radius. The initial speed of both clouds was later calculated to be over 670 kilometres (420 mi) per hour.
 2. You would think such an eruption and the loss of life took place unexpectedly, but it didn't:
 - a. April 23, there was a light rain of [cinders](#) together with sharp underground shocks.
 - b. April 25, rocks and ashes blew from the crater at the mountain top, but no damage
 - c. April 26, the area was dusted by [volcanic ash](#) from a mini eruption... officials "don't worry"
 - d. April 27, a huge lake was found on the top of the mountain. You could hear it boiling. A 50 foot cone of volcanic debris built up on one side. The island reeked of sulfur.
 - e. On April 30, the rivers Roxelane and Rivière des Pères swelled, carrying boulders and trees from the mountaintop. Local villages were receiving a steady stream of ash.
 - f. On May 2, there were loud explosions and earthquakes. A black pillar of smoke arose. Half the island was covered in ash. Animals died due to food & water contamination
 - g. On May 5, the volcano calmed down. Then suddenly the sea receded about 330 feet and then suddenly rushed back, causing major flooding. There was more smoke. Then a wall of the crater collapsed, water and mud flowed out, and 150 people died.
 - h. On May 6, loud sounds came from the mountain. The electric grid was disabled.
 - i. On May 7, great clouds of ash caused volcanic lightning. Some people fled the island, others moved into the city to seek refuge where officials said all was safe.
 3. There was plenty of warning wasn't there? The disaster could have been avoided, but people ignored the reality of the situation, signs were dismissed, and people didn't act with urgency
- B. In the Bible, we read of a man who ignored the reality of his situation, dismissed signs, & refused to act with urgency. He was Pharaoh, king of Egypt. His actions results in much misery, ruin, & even death!**
1. He was holding the Hebrew people, the Israelites, as slaves in Egypt. God had sent Moses to him to tell Pharaoh to let God's people go. Pharaoh refused and as a result God sent plagues on Egypt. All the water had already turned to blood, now there's frogs! (Exodus 8:5-11)
 2. Picture the scene: Frogs EVERYWHERE! These were surely not the cute little frogs either, but the big nasty kind. Frogs in the yard, frogs in the bed, frogs in the toilet, frogs in the cabinets, frogs in the food, frogs in the water, frogs in your clothes, frogs in your hair! Everywhere you look, you see frogs. Everywhere you step, you step on a frog. What a nasty mess!
 3. Pharaoh's response is perplexing... "Tomorrow!" He had the chance to get rid of them that moment, but he wants to wait. Why wait? I don't know... maybe pride. But as a result, his heart hardens, eight more plagues come, and his own son dies. All could've been prevented!
- C. Pharaoh's reaction to this plague is mind blowing, but it shouldn't be. We see the same response all the time to the gospel of Christ. People choose to spend one more night with the frogs of sin when the remedy is right before them. People say, "tomorrow" and choose live with the results.**

What One More Night With The Frogs Means For Us:

- A. One more night with the frogs means spending one more unnecessary night with our sin:**
1. When Pharaoh said, "Tomorrow," he was choosing pointlessly to keep all those frogs around:
 - a. Frogs were everywhere, and they were still coming. Some would have died and gotten smashed and their dead bodies would have piled up. But more and more came out to replace them.

- b. What was true about “tomorrow” that wasn’t true of that day? What’d change in Egypt to make it better for Pharaoh to wait? What’d make it worth suffering with frogs 24 more hours?
 - c. Pharaoh could have had them all removed immediately... But he chose not to. As a result, the frogs remained and they made a mess of Egypt. The stink, the refuse, the slime, the sight!
- 2. With one more night with the frogs, we allow our lives to be in a mess because of sin (**Prov. 6:27-28**)
 - a. Just like Egypt stunk and was filthy because of the frogs, our lives stink and get filled with filth because of sin. Solomon’s message: You can’t play with sin and say it doesn’t affect you!
 - b. Sin is both destructive and corruptive in nature... It makes a personal mess of us inside and out!
 - 1) It makes a mess of our hearts and minds... our thoughts, emotions, feelings, intentions, etc
 - 2) It makes a mess of our relationships... we hurt others, trust broken, disappointments, etc
 - 3) It makes a mess of our daily lives... we make bad decisions, suffer negative consequences,
 - c. As someone once said, “Sin takes you farther than you meant to go, keeps you longer than you meant to stay, and costs you more than you meant to pay” → Don’t deceive yourself!
 - d. Sin brings heart ache, sorrow, regrets, shame, guilt, & more into our life & lives of those around us
 - e. When we spend one more night with the frogs, we continue in this ruin needlessly! In Jesus there is freedom from this destruction & corruption, but we have to want to get rid of the frogs!
- 3. For us, one more night with the frogs means unnecessarily carrying the weight sin’s guilt for another day!
 - a. If you have not obeyed the gospel, you need to understand the gravity of your position. You are lost. You have no fellowship with God. All of your sins are still on your record. You do not enjoy the forgiveness of sins. You are outside the grace and mercy of God.
 - b. While the remedy is different, Christians who are living in sin are still choosing to live with guilt. We cannot “go on sinning willfully” and expect everything to be okay.
 - c. By bringing your sins to Jesus, instead of being condemned you can be justified. Instead of being guilty, you can be forgiven. Instead of being dead, you can be alive (**Colossians 2:12-14**)
- 4. This problem is not a problem of opportunity. Healing for our sin is available. God stands ready and eager to heal us. We have to decide that we are through with our frogs! (**Jeremiah 8:20-22**)

B. One more night with the frogs means having our hearts growing hard and callous:

- 1. This decision to keep the frogs around was a pivotal decision for Pharaoh. This decision built a foundation of procrastination and defiance which made it easier for him to say no to God later on:
 - a. When the water was turned to blood, we read that Pharaoh didn’t even take it to heart (**7:23**), but now he says “tomorrow” – Is he considering it? Sounds like he’s moving at least a little.
 - b. If he teetering a little, when he makes no decision and goes home, his heart becomes hardened and he comes back even more resolute that he will not submit to God’s demand.
 - c. First Pharaoh procrastinates, then his heart hardens, then he refuses to obey God, and then his heart hardens more. By saying, “tomorrow” Pharaoh developed a habit of saying no to God!
- 2. Your conscience may now be pushing you to do what you know is right, but when you say, “tomorrow” you sear your conscience and diminish its impact (**1 Timothy 4:2**)
 - a. Paul is talking about people who have done the wrong thing enough that their conscience no longer bothers them when they sin. It has been burned by sin until there’s no feeling left.
 - b. This happens when we continue in our sin, allowing it to continue in our lives like a pet. This happens when we put off obeying the gospel when we know it’s what we need to do.
 - c. Imagine our consciences like a voice inside of our head and heart telling us what is right and what we should do. Every time we tell ourselves, “tomorrow I will do something about it” we diminish that voice. With each passing day it gets fainter. Soon we will hear it no more!
- 3. There is a direct parallel between how we respond and how Pharaoh responded. When we say “NO” to God, or even “NOT NOW,” our hearts become hardened by the deceitfulness of sin (**Heb. 3:13**)
 - a. With each refusal to obey to God, we take another step away from God. With each refusal it gets easier and easier to say no to God. With each refusal, Satan’s lies become more believable.
 - b. Another thing happens... The longer we keep the frogs of sin around in our life, the more defiled our conscience becomes. What’s right and wrong becomes skewed (**Titus 1:15**)

4. There is an answer. The answer is obedience to Jesus. The answer is repentance in Jesus. The answer is submission to Jesus. Take action now so you can have a good conscience through Jesus (**I Peter 3:21**)

C. One more night with the frogs means taking an unnecessary eternal risk with our souls:

1. Just think for a moment of all the heartache and ruin that could have been avoided if Pharaoh had just said, "Right Now" instead of "Tomorrow:"
 - a. That night I doubt anyone slept... The croaks of the millions of frogs would have been deafening, not to mention the sensation of the crawling on their skin! The frogs contaminated their food and water supply. There had to be disease as well... especially when the dead piled up.
 - b. I can't believe the people didn't revolt against him! They are all suffering because of his bad leadership and decisions. He could have fixed it but wouldn't... so they all slept with frogs!
 - c. But remember what came after this: Lice, flies, disease of livestock, boils, hail mingled with fire, locusts, darkness, and the death of the first born. Egypt was turned into a wasteland!
 - d. Pharaoh wasn't stupid... he knew the risk. He had already said no and saw the water turned into blood. Then he said no again and faced the frogs. He was taking unnecessary deadly risks!
2. In a sense, Pharaoh's procrastination with his frogs makes more sense than our procrastination with our frogs... Why? Because procrastination with our frogs has eternal consequences (**2 Cor. 6:1-2**)
 - a. When we procrastinate with sin, forgiveness, and obeying the gospel, we are procrastinating with things that impact our eternity. It's not just about "tomorrow" but about our eternity.
 - b. Do you believe in Heaven? Do you believe in Hell? If so, we will not play around with tomorrow!
 - c. When we procrastinate with our salvation we make our eternal destiny uncertain. Perhaps one day you will be saved, but perhaps you won't. You and I cannot say for sure because you are putting it off. But one thing we can say for sure... Right now you aren't saved.
 - d. To say, "tomorrow" is to say "not today" ...To put off your salvation is to remain lost.
3. When we say, "tomorrow" we are ignoring the reality of the uncertainty of our life (**James 4:13-17**)
 - a. I could stand up here and tell you highly emotional stories about people who have lost their lives unexpectedly. I could tell stories that would have you in tears and scared to death. But I don't think that's the right approach. But the Bible does talk about the uncertainty of life.
 - b. Tomorrow is uncertain because our life could end at any point – There are many things that can go wrong in our physical bodies at any time, there are freak accidents, and there are evil people out there who do things to destroy lives. We are frail creatures. Death happens (**I Pet 1:24**)
 - c. Tomorrow is uncertain because Jesus could return at any point. He will come back like a thief in the night. It will be unexpected. He will catch people off guard and many will be unprepared. He could come back before my next word. We just don't know (**2 Pet 3:9-10**)
 - d. When we know what we should do to be right with God and we put it off, we are playing "Russian Roulette" with our souls. When we are young we have the "superman complex." As young adults we get busy we put it off. At middle age we think we've still got plenty of time. When we are in our golden years we reason that it's really too late to change – Don't procrastinate!
4. One of the biggest reasons why we say "tomorrow" is that we convince ourselves that our excuses are reasons. I'm sure Pharaoh had his "reasons" too but they were just excuses!
 - a. Some say, "I'm not good enough" → Some say, "I have too much to change" → Some say, "I'm too young" → Some say, "I don't know enough" → Some say, "I have nothing to offer"
 - b. Sometimes these are legitimate, but most often they're excuses for avoiding what we know is right
 - c. (Review each excuse and show the truth behind them – i.e. – *You're never good enough*)

(III). I heard an old story about a king one time that had a court Jester who entertained him marvelously. One day he said to the court jester, "**O, court jester, you are the biggest fool I know.**" He extended to him his royal scepter. He said, "**Court jester, you are the biggest fool I know keep it until you find a bigger.**" For years, the court jester kept the royal scepter of the king. Then the days came when the king knew he was going to die. He found himself upon his deathbed never again to arise. He called for his court jester to come in and he said, "**O court jester, I am going on a long journey, never again to return.**" (Talking about death). The court jester said, "**O, sir, what preparations have you made for this long journey?**" The king shook his head and said, "**Alas, I've made none.**" In that moment the jester extended to the king his scepter. He said, "**Here sir, you are a bigger fool than I. I have jested about things in this life, you have procrastinated about things in the next life.**"