

Series: Exodus: Seeing God in the Journey  
Title: Who's the Boss: Fear God, Not Men  
Text: Exodus 1.15-22

## Introduction

“Who's the Boss?”

- TV show (1984-1992)
  - Tony Danza, Judith Light
    - Former baseball player becomes Housekeeper with daughter to an executive working mother.
    - How things are run is a constant tension in the show.

Many times we will face times when we are called to work out dynamics in authority structures.

## CALLED TO GET ALONG

### Hebrews 12:14

*Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.*

### John 13:34-35

*<sup>34</sup> A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

### Called to Compromise

- All relationships are made up compromise
- There are times when the roles are defined with those in authority and those who are under authority
- Employer/ Employee; Parent Child, teacher student, officer of the law, citizen, government, citizen

### Called to Compliance

- In many cases we are called to come into compliance
- Compliance to a standard or law –

### Compliance to Government and Civil Authorities

- Speed limit, behaviors in society, etc.

### **Rom. 13:1-4a**

<sup>1</sup> Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. <sup>2</sup> Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. <sup>3</sup> For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, <sup>4a</sup> for he is God's servant for your good...

### **1 Peter 2:13-17**

<sup>13</sup> Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, <sup>14</sup> or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. <sup>15</sup> For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. <sup>16</sup> Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. <sup>17</sup> Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

### **Compliance to Educators and Employers**

- Dress codes, behavior code at your employment, required duties

### **Prov. 5:12-14a**

...<sup>12</sup> and you say, "How I hated discipline, and my heart despised reproof!

<sup>13</sup> I did not listen to the voice of my teachers or incline my ear to my instructors. <sup>14</sup> I am at the brink of utter ruin in the assembled congregation."

### **Hebrews 13:17**

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

### **Compliance to Parents**

- Home values, family rules

### **Eph. 6:2-3**

The command says, "Honor your father and mother." This is the first command that has a promise with it— "Then everything will be well with you, and you will have a long life on the earth."

### **Called to Capitulation**

- Compliance may seem like capitulation

- Compliance asks you to comply with the plan.
- Capitulation demands that you comply with a plan
- **This is not necessarily evil or wrong**
  - These things are normative and correct.
  - Honor those in authority.
  - Do your work for your employer as unto the Lord.

### **Ephesians 6:5-6**

<sup>5</sup> *Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, <sup>6</sup> not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart...*

### **Ephesians 6:5-6 World English**

*Servants, obey your boss. Respect him with all your heart and try to please him as you would Christ.*

- Obey the authorities of your land.
- Honor and obey your parents.

What happens when compliance and capitulation calls for you to disregard God's kingdom life?

- Employer
  - Great environment
  - Good team leadership
  - Asked to do something that goes against your moral values?
  - What then?
- Parents
  - Honor them – obey them.
  - Asked to do something that goes against God's design?
- School
  - Good administration
  - Learning is solid.
  - Great teacher.
  - Asked to comply with something that goes against God?
  - What then?

Let's look at the main text for today

## **Exodus 1.15-22**

*<sup>15</sup> Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, <sup>16</sup> "When you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, you shall kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live." <sup>17</sup> But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live. <sup>18</sup> So the king of Egypt called the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and let the male children live?" <sup>19</sup> The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." <sup>20</sup> So God dealt well with the midwives. And the people multiplied and grew very strong. <sup>21</sup> And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. <sup>22</sup> Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall cast into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live."*

When we are asked to do evil...At this moment you are called to contest and change

## **CALLED TO CONTEST AND CHANGE, NOT CONFORM**

### **The Line is Drawn**

"The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives...kill the boys" – Exodus 1:15-16

- The tyrant is empowering their women to kill their male children...
- To remove the warrior spirit from the equation...
- To feminize the population.
- See what happened, because it also implies that it's in the best interest of the tyrant to dispense with those figures who might pose a threat to the tyranny and those would be tough men.

"Relative Truth"

## **When asked to do evil you must choose God as your boss**

Roe v. Wade has fallen; legality issues are now determined state-by-state.

### **Planned Parenthood – Margaret Sanger**

"But for my view, I believe that there should be no more babies."

— Interview with John Parsons, 1947.

"The most merciful thing that the large family does to one of its infant members is to kill it."  
— Woman and the New Race, Chapter 5, "The Wickedness of Creating Large Families." (1920).

“I accepted an invitation to talk to the women's branch of the Ku Klux Klan... I was escorted to the platform, was introduced, and began to speak...In the end, through simple illustrations I believed I had accomplished my purpose. A dozen invitations to speak to similar groups were proffered.”

— Margaret Sanger, *An Autobiography*, published in 1938, p. 366.

"Apply a stern and rigid policy of sterilization and segregation to that grade of population whose progeny is tainted, or whose inheritance is such that objectionable traits may be transmitted to offspring."

— “My Way to Peace,” Jan. 17, 1932. Margaret Sanger Papers, Library of Congress 130:198.

### **India sterilization**

As early as April 2021, Gates received flak for expressing his reluctance about sharing COVID-19 vaccine technologies with developing countries like India. After severe public criticism in India and abroad, BMGF Chief Executive Officer Mark Suzman officially supported a temporary waiver on vaccine IP.

- WHO Human population
- Sanctity of Human Life

### **Dobbs decision**

Policies determined state-by-state

When does life start?

- Conception
  - Golem – formless
- 10 weeks
  - Nephesh - Soul
- 22 weeks
  - Yalad – Child
- Birth
  - First breath

### **Over-population**

Women’s rights

### **My Mother carried twins**

- Michael and Daniel
- “No more children!”
  - Three more
  - My first miracle - Almost lost me

**Scott Klusendorf** – President of Life Training Institute, author, **The Case for Life**

(<https://prolifetraining.com/resources/the-case-for-life/>):

- Because 1) humans bear the image of God, and 2) the shedding of innocent blood, {meaning the intentional killing of an innocent human being} is strictly forbidden.
- The only question then biblically is, “What are the unborn? Innocent human or not?”
- Syllogism – premise, premise, conclusion
  - Premise One: It's wrong to intentionally kill innocent human beings.
  - Premise Two: Abortion intentionally kills an innocent human being.
  - Conclusion: Therefore, abortion is wrong.
- When someone deflects by saying it is a political view, a personal view, or a religious view...they are not dealing with the logic of that syllogism.
  - They may challenge the statement: “abortion intentionally kills an innocent human being.”
  - Saying that it is not a human being
- Statement – Not human life, and therefore not persons
  - How can two humans produce something non-human but later on become so? Become human? How is that doable?
  - **The courts have stated that it is a medical determination...not a judicial determination**
- **Medically speaking**
  - The science of embryology: From the earliest stages of development, from the one cell stage, you were a distinct living and whole human being.
    - You weren't part of another human being. Like skin cells on the back of your hand.
    - You were already a whole living member of the human family, even though you had yet to grow and develop.
    - Beyond that, there's no essential difference between you, the embryo, and you, the adult that would justify killing you at that earlier stage.
      - Differences of size, level of development, environment, and degree of dependency are differences, but they're not good reasons for saying we could kill you then, but not now.
  - Medically speaking the heart beat starts at 10 weeks
  - Medically speaking – viability: the baby can live outside the womb, with assistance and care, at 22 weeks.
  - Medically speaking it is a human life in various developmental stages
    - So is infancy, childhood, adolescence, teens, young adults, adults, senior adults; they are stages.

- Brain is not fully developed until age 26, and if there has been arrested development, longer than that.
  - How do we get someone to see personhood in the preborn, as opposed to inconvenience or something I control because it resides in my body?
- Statement: They are human, but not persons?
  - Have you ever met a human that was not a person? (Teenagers excluded, lol!)
  - They argue over points: self-awareness, self-consciousness, ability to feel pain.
    - Newborns are not self-aware. They do not see themselves existing over time. They don't have immediately expressible desires. Does it follow? Then they can be killed. Beyond that, their argument leads to savage implications for human equality.
    - If our right to life is based on some arbitrarily selected trait that none of us share equally, and that may come and go in the course of our lifetime, then it follows that those who have more of that trait have a greater right to life than those of us with less, and human equality is on the ash heap of history.
  - We have a better answer: **We are all equal and valuable because all of us share a human nature.**
    - That is, as Christians we know we bear the image of our Maker, but that human nature is what gives us our equality, not traits that we don't share equally that may come and go in the course of our lifetime.
- Ask penetrating questions rather than just shouting conclusions at people.
  - The onus is on them to prove their assertions about human life.
- We need to recognize the underlying assumption that people bring to the abortion debate. That the Preborn are not human.
- For example, think about all the street level objections to the pro-life view.
  - When people say we ought to respect choice privacy, we should trust women to make their own decisions.
  - And we need to worry about poor women who can't afford to get abortions or raise another child.
  - Notice that every one of those objections, when put forward clearly, is a justification for intentionally killing an innocent human being. Sounds repugnant.
  - So here's what pro-abortionists do. They simply assume that the unborn aren't human. They don't prove it. They just assume it.
  - So you get President Biden saying on the anniversary of Roe v Wade a couple of years ago, said, “reproductive freedom is good for everyone.”
    - Reproductive freedom, by which he means abortion
    - Mr. President, with all due respect to your office, does, “everyone” include the unborn? Obviously he wasn't including them. He was simply assuming they're not human. He hadn't argued for it. He hadn't put forth any scientific evidence. He had made any philosophical argument. He just assumed it.

- And this is what people do on abortion when they talk about choice, privacy, trusting women, and consequences of back-alley abortions, whatever. All of those arguments assume the unborn are not human.
- Roe is gone / Dobbs is here: fifty states deciding.
  - Planned Parenthood has stated unequivocally that they want to stop any pro-life laws whatsoever in all 50 states. And they add to that, that even if every state in the country had a pro-life law, there would still be “back-alley abortions.”
- Statement: go back to back-alley abortions
  - Answer to this: Shared empathy
    - I think you and I agree on something. We both believe that any woman who dies from an abortion, legal or illegal, that's a tragedy. You and I agree on that.
    - Point out that the argument assumes the preborn is not human because otherwise what the pro-abortion critic is saying is that because some people will die attempting to intentionally kill other innocent human beings, we ought to make it legal for them to do the killing. I mean, should we make bank robbery legal so it's safer for felons to rob banks?
- Then statistics – but from abortionists not pro-lifers
  - Doctor Mary Calderon. She was president or she was Planned Parenthood's medical director in the 1960s when allegedly all these women were dying. Doctor Calderon said in an American Journal of Public Health article that the risk from dying from illegal abortion was so low it wasn't even worth commenting on.
    - And she gave two reasons for that.
      - Number one, the widespread introduction of penicillin made all surgical procedures safer.
      - And secondly, illegal abortions primarily were not being done with guys with rusty coat hangers in back alleys. They were being done by physicians in good standing in their community who simply skirted the law.
  - Christopher Teets, Planned Parenthood statistician. During that same era. He said that the claim of 5 to 10,000 deaths a year from illegal abortion was, quote, unmitigated nonsense,
  - Bernard Nathanson, who later became pro-life,
    - Co-founder of NARAL, the National Abortion Rights Action League.
    - Doctor Nathanson, in his book Aborting America, conceded to The New York Times while he was still performing abortions, that he had presided over 60,000 deaths, and he told The Times that the claim of 5 to 10,000 deaths a year was made up out of thin air by him and Doctor Lawrence later, and they sold it to the press, who bought it wholesale.



- Fourth and final source. Doctor Daniel Callahan, who wrote the book Abortion: Law, Choice, and Morality.
  - He supported abortion, but said that it's mathematically impossible that you could get 5 to 10,000 deaths a year from illegal abortion, when only 35,000 women a year of childbearing age die from all causes; to claim this one cause for 5 to 10,000 a year. Illegal abortion as such a cause stretches credulity to the breaking point.

Let's move on: we can vote on this matter and I sure hope you do. We can try to help people come to a logical moral decision. But in the end they will do as they will.

But I am speaking to you: Your choice...

- Will you be the one to take your baby's life?
  - Maybe you have already. There is forgiveness and healing available for you in Jesus.
- But in this moment... Here on out and forevermore we have to stand with God!

## The Choice is Made

### Exodus 1:17-19

*<sup>17</sup> But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them. <sup>18</sup> So the king of Egypt called the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and let the male children live?" <sup>19</sup> The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them."*

### Choosing God as your Boss calls you to take a stand and not conform

The midwives feared God and did not do what was commanded

- First mention of civil disobedience in the Bible
  - Parents called domestic terrorists
  - FBI Watch list

"What I have to do is to see, at any rate, that I do not lend myself to the wrong which I condemn."

– Henry David Thoreau

- The reason they won't do it is that they fear God.

- It is because they're able to see beyond the power that the Pharaoh is handing them at this moment.
  - The power of Government is not the FINAL authority

“It is not always the same thing to be a good man and a good citizen.”

– Aristotle

**Peter and Apostles said God is our Boss when confronted by High priest**

**When told to not speak of Jesus the disciples made a choice**

**Acts 5:29**

*But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men.*

“An individual who breaks a law that conscience tells him is unjust, and who willingly accepts the penalty of imprisonment in order to arouse the conscience of the community over its injustice, is in reality expressing the highest respect for the law.”

– Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Paul made the choice to make God the Boss**

When Paul knew through a word of prophecy what would happen to him if he went to Jerusalem and was told not to go

- The disciples felt lead to tell him not to go (Acts 21:4)
- Agabus, a prophet, said he would be bound and arrested (Acts 21:11)
- It happens and he stands before the Sanhedrin proclaiming Christ
- A riot breaks out
  - And when the dissension became violent, the tribune, afraid that Paul would be torn to pieces by them, commanded the soldiers to go down and take him away from among them by force and bring him into the barracks.
    - He is in jail in the barracks – discouraged.

**Acts 23:11**

*The following night the Lord stood by him and said, “**Take courage**, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome.”*

**The midwives chose God as the Boss**

God is the boss.

- Moral ethics
  - Nazis at your door

## **BLESSINGS FOLLOW CHOOSING GOD AS BOSS**

### **Exodus 1:20-21**

*<sup>20</sup> So God dealt well with the midwives. And the people multiplied and grew very strong. <sup>21</sup> And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families.*

- God blesses their disobedience
- God dealt well with the midwives

Peter, James, and John were imprisoned and beaten, but then miraculously released and many were saved.

Paul indeed was taken to Rome and had audience with the present ruler of the time, yet the message of Christ was shared to the Romans and to leaders throughout the region which ignited the movement of the Gospels to the Gentiles.

Do we not long for God to deal well with us?

Do we not desire God to bless us?

## **WE ARE ACCOUNTABLE FOR OUR CHOICES NOT THE WORLD'S CHOICES**

### **Exodus 1:22**

*Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall cast into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live."*

- Can't kill them in the womb
- Kill them out of the womb
  - Sterilization in their puberty

The Midwives did their part God blessed them.

Society and the government did not change – they killed male children.

You may not win the war – But you must fight your war.

## **CHALLENGE**

I will STRIVE to love everyone, revealing that Christ is My Boss.

I will SUBMIT to authorities in my life, revealing that I am obedient to Christ.

I will STAND for truth and fear God over man when commanded to betray His Word.