

God's Care for the Community

Exodus 1:8-16 (NIV)

⁸ Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt. ⁹ "Look," he said to his people, "the Israelites have become far too numerous for us. ¹⁰ Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country." ¹¹ So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. ¹² But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites ¹³ and worked them ruthlessly. ¹⁴ They made their lives bitter with harsh labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their harsh labor the Egyptians worked them ruthlessly. ¹⁵ The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, ¹⁶ "When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live."

I.

Satan gets intimidated when he's outnumbered by God's people in the community.

Exodus 1:9-10 (NIV) says, "Look," he said to his people, "the Israelites have become far too numerous for us. ¹⁰ **Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country.**"

To try and prevent God's people from increasing in numbers in the community, satan tries to wear us out with heavy burdens.

Exodus 1:11 (TLB) says, "So the Egyptians made slaves of them and put brutal taskmasters over them to **wear them down under heavy burdens** while building the cities of Pithom and Rameses as supply centers for the king."

When wearing out the adults doesn't stop the increase, the next strategy is for satan to come after the children in the community.

Exodus 1:15-16 and Exodus 1:22

II.

The community needs to know that God cares, and He is concerned about the suffering some of them are experiencing.

Exodus 3:7 says, *“The Lord said, I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, **and I am concerned about their suffering**”*

The community needs to know that God cares, and He wants to take them to a different place in their lives.

Exodus 3:8 (MSG) says, *“And now I have come down to help them, **pry them loose from the grip of Egypt**, get them out of that country and bring them to a good land with wide-open spaces, a land lush with milk and honey, the land of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite.*

The community also needs to know that God cares, and He hears them when they cry out to Him in distress.

Exodus 3:9a (NIV) says, *“And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me”*

III.

Because God cares about the community, He calls a person or a group of people to go and make a difference in the lives of others.

Exodus 3:10 (NIV) says, *“So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”*

Some of us have not expressed God’s care to the community yet because we can’t see how God would want to use a person like us.

Exodus 3:11 (MSG) says, *“But I’m not the person for a job like that, Moses exclaimed.”*

Flaws and all, you and I are exactly who God is looking for to demonstrate His care for the community.