

# YOUR LIFE SENTENCE: PERIOD OR COMMA

THE WAY | A Journey Through Exodus  
PART ONE | The Way Out  
Exodus 4:14 - 6:13

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## YOUR LIFE SENTENCE: PERIOD OR COMMA?

- When disaster strikes, when trials set in, when difficulties mount up - we feel like we've been given a life sentence.
- Many have written the story of their life as, "Everything's a disaster. My life is over. If only things would have worked out differently."
- So often we see a "period" in our lives, where God has only placed a "comma."
- Sometimes things get worse before they get better but, like Moses, we can be comforted and strengthened by the Lord's Presence and promises!

## PREVIOUSLY IN EXODUS

*"But Moses again pleaded, "Lord, please! Send anyone else." EXODUS 4:13*

*"...In his hand he carried the staff of God." - v. 20b*

*"Then the people of Israel were convinced that the Lord had sent Moses and Aaron. When they heard that the Lord was concerned about them and had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped."*

EXODUS 4:31

## THE RESISTANCE: EXODUS 5:1-5

Sometimes the most challenging part of a mission is when we finally declare it to others. (5:1)

**Moses and Aaron were met with radical resistance from Pharaoh who:**

1. *Didn't believe this God— and further denied Him as having any authority (5:2)*
2. *Was calloused to the possibility of any harm that might come on the Israelites for disobeying their God (vv. 2-3).*
3. *Was most concerned for his own loss of labor productivity (5:4-5)*

Don't expect those who are unfamiliar with God, or who are opposed to the gospel, to share your enthusiasm or be on your side! The world has no respect for God's Word.

*"If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first. The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you."*

JOHN 15:18-19

### **SOMETIMES THINGS GET WORSE BEFORE THEY GET BETTER: EXODUS 5:6-21**

In the midst of doubt and fear, Moses chose to obey the Lord, yet is quickly met with radical resistance (both from Pharaoh and his own people!)

### **SO OFTEN LIFE GETS HARDER AFTER BECOMING A CHRISTIAN.**

What are the "bricks without straw" that you feel you must produce as a result of following God's mission in your life?

The key question is: "Where do we go when we are met with opposition?"

### **WHEN OPPOSITION COMES, WE GO TO THE LORD...ALWAYS! EXODUS 5:22-23**

*"Then Moses went back to the Lord and protested, "Why have you brought all this trouble on your own people, Lord? Why did you send me? 23 Ever since I came to Pharaoh as your spokesman, he has been even more brutal to your people. And you have done nothing to rescue them!"*

EXODUS 5:22-23 (NLT)

1. Moses goes to the Lord right away.
2. Moses is honest with the Lord.
3. Moses is tempted to see a "period," but trusts God for the "comma"

We don't need to see hardships, disasters, and trials of life as a "period" or "exclamation point," - they do not define us, but rather we are defined by God's Presence and Promises!

### **THE LORD'S PRESENCE & PROMISES CARRY US THROUGH: EXODUS 6:6-8**

1. I will free you from your oppression!
2. I will redeem you with a powerful arm!
3. I will claim you as my own!
4. I will be your God!
5. I will bring you into a new space!
6. I will give it to you as a heritage!

### **NEVER PUT A PERIOD WHERE GOD ONLY PUTS A COMMA! CONCLUSION**

#### **PERIOD VS. COMMA**

**A period says, "it is finished."  
A comma says, "there is more."**

How have you put a period on yourself? (Pay attention to "NEVER" & "ALWAYS")

"I'm NEVER going to be the spiritual leader God wants me to be"

"I'm NEVER going to experience deliverance from this sin"

"I'm NEVER going to find a life companion"

"I'm ALWAYS going to have these fears"

"I'll ALWAYS wrestle with these insecurities"

"I'm ALWAYS going to be dissatisfied in my career"

The only person that can put a period on your life is God, and He already did at the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ!

*Jesus said, "It is finished!" "Then he bowed his head and released his spirit."* JOHN 19:30

- The period means your sins are **never** to be held against you again. You will **always** be forgiven.
- The period means you **never** have to go back to your old life, you **always** have a path to freedom.
- The period means God **never** sees you according to your own righteousness, he **always** sees you through the lens of Jesus Christ!

## TRUST GOD FOR THE COMMA! CONCLUSION

*"The Lord will perfect that which concerns me; Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever;"*

PSALM 138:8a NKJV

- A comma says, **God is not done with me**, there's **always** more to learn, more to experience, more to grow in.
- There is more beauty on the other side of this pain.
- There is more love to give than I can ever imagine.
- There is more hope for the future than there is despair in this moment