

Exodus 5

Not listening



Perhaps if we are familiar with this story, it seems all very predictable. It seems to be just the typical story, all too often reflected down through history, of the continuing suppression of the underprivileged. A very political narrative could be read into this – and the story could be bent to support a “liberation theology” outlook. We need to re-read some of the lead-up to this confrontation, though. We will find that *Pharaoh* was not the only one not properly listening.

So let's run through the main characters here, one at a time. How do their actions and deeds strike you? Predictable? Understandable? Excusable? Commendable?

➤ The Egyptian Pharaoh?

Do you think we're meant to see Pharaoh as a typical oppressor of the common people? Is it permissible to politicise this narrative in this way?

➤ The “foremen of the people of Israel”?

➤ Moses (and Aaron)?

How did Moses' and Aaron's conduct, speech and expectations line up with they had been told (check back in 3:18-22)?

➤ God?