

Chickens come home to roost: In the Bible

The story of five chickens.

Chicken number: one

Pharaoh and the children (Exodus): Part one

The Bible is full of themes. Some of those themes come in the form of repeating history. In the book of Exodus, we find Pharaoh worried about the growing Israelite population in his country. It's nice to own slaves but when the slaves outnumber you it might be bad. When Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt there were more than a million of them. That is a ton of slaves. Pharaoh thought up a hair brained idea to kill all the baby boys of the slaves. It was a way to reduce the population.

If you're a mighty ruler in a mighty country, then you could probably do anything you wanted. I know that in this country we have concerns over immigration. There are concerns all over the world with migrating people. Maybe it's always been that way through history. In Canada, the government has a history of trying to curb native Indians. They devised a plan about 50 years ago to have native women sleep near their children while being sick with tuberculosis. It was meant to kill off the native population. Fortunately, it did not work.

I could list several other countries trying to eliminate one group of people. What Pharaoh wanted to do to the slave Hebrews was no different. Then comes the chicken part. I find plans go fairly the way we envision except for the Murphy part. Unexpected things happen quite a bit. You know the "I didn't see that coming" part. Pharaoh didn't really think a God could screw with his plans. Sure, he prayed to his Gods but in reality, religion is something we do, not what is reality.

As it happens sometimes, God is real. Pharaoh is about to get a lesson in reality. Moses is in the family of pharaoh because of the plan to kill all the Hebrew boys. Moses mother spares Moses by putting him in the river and floating him down stream. The Baby could have drown or been eaten but God directed the child right into the path of pharaohs daughter bathing in the river. This daughter decided to keep the child and raise him to be Egyptian. Amazingly enough Pharaohs plans worked except one child was spared right in his own household. How ironic is that.

So, Moses was raised as Egyptian and through a set of circumstances ended up fleeing to the desert. God then decided that it was time for chickens to come home to roost. Moses was tending flocks one day and discovered a burning bush. I don't know if it was different then but I have been to that spot and there are no bushes for miles. This whole scene is amazing and ludicrous. God has decided to convince Moses to return to Egypt and confront Pharaoh. Better yet, it appears that the days are numbered for pharaohs own child. Chickens have come to roost. Check back in for the finale next week.

Pharaoh and the children (Exodus): Part Two

I really hate it that my actions come back to bite me sometimes. When I was a teenager I backed into a car. I never reported it. That certainly makes me a less than stellar kid. Years later I was bowling and someone did the same to my truck. If chickens were called fate or karma, then they know their way back home every time. Another take is that some people do nice things because they want something nice back. I find that doing good to others because you want good done to you does not work. We are supposed to be good because it's the right thing to do. We

should not do bad because it's the wrong thing to do. I think that's why chickens prefer to roost on our bad actions more than our good.

Pharaoh decides that killing all the male children will stop the Hebrews from multiplying. I suppose it would. Did he think it would crush his slave population in the future? I'm not sure this Pharaoh was the brightest bulb on the tree. Anyways the mid wives of Pharaoh were ordered to kill the born male children. They decided not to do it because they feared God. These women made up a story and lied to Pharaoh about it. It frustrated him so insanely that he ordered the people to throw their Hebrew male babies into the Nile.

It never occurred to me before that this is exactly what Moses mother did. She was honest and put Moses in a basket and let it float down the river. Ironically God led the basket to Pharaohs daughter and she decided to keep the baby. Who said God does not have a sense of humor. Now we have chickens coming to roost. Moses grows up and has a midlife crisis moment by finding out he is Hebrew; although, he was raised Egyptian. He kills an Egyptian in anger one day and gets caught. Moses escapes flees to the desert for 40 years.

God is patient and waits for the chickens to come home. God calls Moses to return to Egypt and demand that Pharaoh let the Hebrews go. Of course, Pharaoh says that is nuts. Why would he do that the slaves are cheap labor. Through a series of back and forth clashes God displays his power. Yet, Pharaoh is one stubborn donkey. He refuses to let the people go. I can hear the chickens returning. Then Moses is told to warn the Hebrews that death is coming. I find that interesting that some of God's wonders just made it rain in certain places, but this final act covered the whole area.

God told Moses that he was going to kill all the male children 2 years and under. This is so symbolic of Abraham sacrificing his son, God supplying an animal sacrifice in place of the son. The blood from a sacrificed lamb must cover the door posts of the Hebrews. God's Spirit will pass by and Egyptian first born boys will die only. This is horrific, powerful, and daunting all at the same time. Pharaoh is waken to find his first born son dead. He relents and lets the Hebrews go. What is crazy is the people give them a ton of wealth just for them to leave. Pharaoh though is one stubborn man and there is still one lonely chicken to come back home. In his rage, he decided to hunt down Moses and the people and bring them back. He needs those free workers. Moses flees to the red sea and needs God to part the waters. The people book it across the dry sea bed with Pharaoh in hot pursuit. In one final act of power God closes the ocean over Pharaoh and his army killing them all. The chickens are back home and safe once again. God will provide and God will not be mocked all at the same time.

What we can learn from this little chicken.

Killing children is bad. I think that's the obvious one. God will not be mocked. That's an obvious one too. People tend to think God will take it. We read Egypt treating God's people horribly for over 400 years. In real time, it looks like God will be mocked. It's that cup half full thing. Is God taking a long time or are the Israelites taking a long time to pray for help. Far too often we look at God as the evil non-caring one. Sometimes it's the lack of faith as to why God is not asked to help.

Chickens come home to roost because it's time. Recently we have watched politician's rule in the way they desire. I have always found it strange that they usually rule in the way we don't want them to. Why is that? I wonder if they read the book on sheep. Jesus said sheep

always follow the voice of the master. The problem is who is the master. We hire leaders but they assume they are the master. They are really just the only one stupid enough to lead. Leaders always run around with targets on their backs. Pharaoh put a target on his back when he tried to kill God's children.

God will take his time. He will allow suffering. We need to suffer until we give up control. Then God will step in. It's been this way forever. A political person that over steps their boundaries always gets it back in return. History is full of leaders being humbled. Why don't people treat people better. Why do we always blame God? It seems like a human trait. The lesson might be that we need to treat people better. We need to be better leaders. Maybe praying sooner will bring relief sooner. Life seems to be in our hands more than we think.

I feel in North America there are classes of people. We call this a democracy but in reality, it is a class system. We look at these countries of the past and snicker. They were bad because they have slaves. They were rich and refused to share the wealth. Look in the North American mirror. Our fast food and convent stores are full of foreign slaves. We pay little but expect a lot. We are stinking rich. I saw a homeless guy on a cell phone. That is not poor. There is always more we can do. There is always less to complain about. Slavery, sex trafficking, and abuse of foreigner's is alive in this hemisphere. One day we just might have to admit that like pharaoh did.

Finally, being a good leaders or King means you should respect the people who consider you authority. Taking advantage of them will always turn ugly. Even a King must honor who put them there. Many think that they were voted in. God says in the Bible that he places leaders in a position of power. Are you there because you deserve it? Did you earn it by your smarts? It's

possible we end up a leader because it's God who put you there. It's possible we need to respect the unknown more than we do. God will not be mocked.