

**Exodus – Week 3**  
**Evangelism**  
**July 19, 2009**  
**Pastor David Brown**

I hope you left last Sunday free. How long did it take you to wrap the chains back around you? Was it Monday morning? Did you wake up Monday morning thinking about everything that had to be done? Did you wake up Monday morning trying to do everything in your strength again? Did you wake up Monday morning forgetting everything we talked about? Because that's our tendency; our tendency is just go from Sunday to Sunday wrapping ourselves in chains; staying in bondage, never taking that step to become truly free. Today as we look at the book of Exodus; it is a story about moving from slavery to freedom but there is a point in the story that you need to see and understand the best way for you to stay out of bondage. The best way for you to stop wrapping these chains around your wrists is once you get free, to look around and see who you can help. To look around and see people in bondage; to see people in chains; to see people trapped in sin and instead of concentrating on yourself and concentrating on how you can keep the chains off of you, go to them. Go to them and offer to remove those chains. Ask them how you can help them be set free. Look around, there are people all around that are enslaved. I want you to know that's why this church exists. Now, I know we say it and you say it and you amen it. We talk about the churches here, to go out and seek and save the lost. The church is here to help you become that fully devoted follower and in being that fully devoted follower, your task is to be what Christ wants you to be in this world which means you're like him, fully devoted follower, what does it say in Luke, "I came to seek and save that which is lost." That's our job. That's our task. How do we stay out of bondage? How do we stay free? We seek to save that which is lost. We look around us and find people in our lives; in our communities; in our jobs; in our family that need to be released from sin, that need to hear what we have, to need to understand that we are there for them. That's why the church exists. Now, we get confused because we're all about ourselves and whenever we talk about church it's about what I get out of it. Did I enjoy the music today? Did the sermon teach me something? Were my children happy in the children's programs? You see, we get real caught up on church being about us. But the church exists, the reason this building is here, the reason we're looking to build another one, the reason the band plays, the reason I stand in this pulpit is to seek and to save the lost and there are people all around us that need you to help them break free. You know today, I really don't think it's because you don't care, I mean I really don't think anybody in here would stand and say I don't care about lost people, they can all go to hell for all I care. None of you would say that. I don't think we don't reach out to people because we don't care about them. I think for one thing, we're just too busy to reach out to them. There's too much going on in our lives. We wake up and we have our agendas and our to do

lists and we have all the things we need to do to take care of in our work, we have all the things we need to take care of physically, families, house and the list of to do's is so long that we don't have any time to help anybody else. We very rarely wake up and say, God, use me today in somebody's life. That's not our prayer. Be honest, when you wake up in the morning your prayer is God, help me. God help me to the things I need to do today. Help me live the way I need to live. God help me to walk with you. That's not what Jesus is looking for. Jesus is looking for you to do the very same things he did and the bible says we will do greater things than he did which means we will reach and seek and save more people than he could when he walked on earth, so some of you are just too busy. For some of you, let's just be honest, you're hurting too much. You wake up in the morning and there's this pain in your heart, you wake up in the morning and you're hurting, there is something in your life that's causing you great pain. You wake up every morning and you can't think about anybody else, you can't think about what to do to help somebody else, you're so wrapped up in your own hurt, wrapped up in your own pain, so wrapped up on what's going on in your own life that you can't see people around you. That's where some of you are today. For some of us, it's just a matter of hiding. There is something in your life that you've got to keep hidden and let me tell you something, when you're hiding something, you really can't get out there and open up and see what God wants you to do because you're afraid somebody will find out what's going on in your life and so you have to focus all your attention on hiding. So it's not that you don't care about lost people, you're busy covering yourself. And for some of you, you just feel unworthy. You kind of look at yourself in the mirror and think who am I? Why in the world would I be able to help anybody else, look how messed up I am. I can't go to anybody, I can't help people, and I don't know enough about the bible. What if somebody asked me where Cain and Abel got their wives? I got no idea. Guess what, I don't have any idea either. My theological answer to that is I don't know. I've been to a lot of school; I've studied the word of God. Where did Cain and Abel get their wives? I don't know. That's as theological as I can get with it. You see because Satan is lying to you, you feel unworthy. It's none of my business, who am I to tell someone else how to live? I am so messed up. You know what? If that's how you feel today you're right, you're in the perfect spot and today if you don't know Christ and you're all messed up and you don't know how to get by it, I want you to know that you came to the perfect place because we're a bunch of messed up people. We're all messed up. I know some of you are mad. I'm not messed up; I can't believe he said I'm messed up. Well, if you don't think you're messed up, then you're more messed up than we are. I want you to know, I'm the captain of the team. I'm messed up. I know it, I see it. But you see, in all that messed up, I have Jesus. In all that messed up, Jesus is there loving on me and guess what? Jesus knew all the stupid stuff I was going to do before he saved me and he still loved me. So, even though I'm messed up and you're all messed up, those of us who have come to Jesus, we've been set free from that and although we're messed up, we have a loving savior that forgives us and that's what people are

looking for; that's what people need. We have what they want. I know some of you are thinking, no, people don't want to talk about spiritual things. Yes, they do. People are dying to talk about spiritual things; people want to discuss spiritual things. We live in one of the most spiritually alive times ever. People are afraid, they're scared, they're wondering about the future. It's not that they don't want to talk about God; they don't want to talk about religion. They don't want to talk about rules. They want to talk about Jesus and God and we need to open up and let them know so I want to ask you a question today...who would you be willing to reach out to if you knew God was in complete control? Who would you be willing to reach out to and help take off the chains, picture someone now in your life whether in your family, at work, your neighbor, someone you know is in chains, someone you know does not have a relationship with Jesus, who would you be willing to help take off the chains for if you knew God was in control?

Today I want to tell you the key to remaining free, the key to escaping slavery is not to concentrate on yourself, but to look out beyond yourself and see who can I help and that takes time. The first thing it takes is time to understand. We need to understand that there are people in this world that are hurting; there are people in this room that are hurting. It's the human condition, we live in a fallen world, we live where creation has been ruined by us and there is not a human being alive that is not hurting. We are all hurting people and when we look out there and we see those people out there, we need to know they are hurting and we need to be willing to reach out to them and know that it's okay to hurt. Here is the problem with church people, church people, I know you hear it from me a lot, but I want you to understand, a lot of you are uncomfortable around lost people. Let's be honest, you don't want to be around lost people. Lost people make you very uncomfortable and so you want to run back to your holy huddle. You want to run back to your safety net, you only want to be around Christian people but if we're going to be like Jesus, Jesus was never afraid to be around lost people was he? Jesus seemed to be very comfortable in a lot of settings that you would run screaming out of. I'm talking about you church people. Jesus was around when the people were partying, he was there, people wanted to talk to him about spiritual things. They never felt condemned or judged. They never felt like Jesus was looking down on them. Now he never sinned but he was there. That's pretty amazing and church people; we need to learn that Jesus Christ did not die so that you could have a fabulous bible study. Jesus didn't die so you could get together and learn the deep truths of the bible. Jesus died so that we could take that message to those who are hurting and reach out to them and free them, that's why he came. It's not about how many bible studies you can attend and how much you know about God's word. It is about reaching out and helping people move out of slavery into freedom and we need to understand there are people hurting out there, there are people confused, there are people upset, there are people angry with God. We need to be willing to hear it and you church people, what I was talking about? If someone opens a beer, you run out of the room

screaming because you can't be around that. Someone tells a joke that's inappropriate, you make sure to keep a stiff upper lip and never laugh even though you go back to your office and think it's funny. There's a word for that. What is it? Oh yeah, hypocrite, that's right. We need to learn to take the time to understand lost people and their actions are not what is sending them to hell. If it was, guess what? We're all going and I'll be driving. It's not your actions; it's the grace of God. We need to take that grace of God; we need to take time to understand what's going on.

In the story of Exodus, we kind of see this same thing. We see people hurting, we see people hiding, we see people angry with God and I want you to see this. Turn to Exodus the second chapter, we're going to look at this story in the beginning of Exodus and we're going to see this family. Now I want you to remember, here's how the story starts. Joseph takes his family into Egypt to escape the famine, he takes his family, about 70 of them and they come into Egypt and they start reproducing like rabbits. Pretty soon there are hundreds of them and then there are thousands of them and then there are ten thousands of them then millions of them and the Egyptians are looking at them saying man, we've got to do something, we've got to stop this and so they decide that they're going to enslave them. Well the boredom of enslavement made them breed even more because they kept exploding and so finally the Pharaoh looks and says we've got to put a stop to this. This is what we're going to do. We're going to kill all the male Hebrew children. Any child that is born male, we're going to destroy and that way we can stop this and they won't just overpower us with numbers. We're going to destroy all the male children. That's where we pick up in Exodus chapter 2. Let me look at the story with you. Now, I'm out of the house of Levi, I married a Levite women and she became pregnant. Now that's usually a joyous thing to become pregnant. Do you remember having that first child? Remember how exciting that was? Remember all the emotions? It seems like it was yesterday and my baby turned twenty five yesterday so it's been a long time but the emotions are still there because it was such an exciting moment remember? Now, when she became pregnant in the story, it wasn't an exciting moment. In fact, it was pretty scary because there was a 50-50 chance that baby that was born to her would be murdered in front of her. So she began to pray as soon as she found out that she was pregnant. What do you think her prayer was? God give me a healthy baby boy to watch be murdered? No, she prayed God give me a girl to hold on to and to raise. God, if you love me, God if you're there, if you're real, do not give me a boy; please don't give me a boy. Guess what happened? She gave birth to a son. She saw that it was a fine child and she hid him for three months. She didn't want to lose this child and I want you to know, by hiding it, she put her whole family in jeopardy. By hiding the baby, the baby wouldn't just be destroyed, they would come in and kill the entire family for breaking the law and she knew that and she hid that baby. Listen, the same way when you and I try to hide sins in our lives, it doesn't work. As soon as you try to hide a sin, it just keeps growing and growing and growing and pretty soon it's impossible to hide. Well that's what

happened to this baby. About three months in the baby was just too big to hide. This family, broken hearted, thinks if we get caught, we're all going to die so we're going to take the baby and they put it in a basket and put it in to the Nile River. Do you realize what this took? They pushed it along into the river because at least the baby had a chance. The sister we are going to hear about is called Miriam, we find out her name later, but the sister gets into the water at a distance to watch what's going on. They're hearts are broken and these people are angry with God, these people are upset, hurting, these people do not see God as a good God. They are angry with this God. I want you to understand, even when we're angry with God, even when we're upset with God, even when we don't think God is in control, we need to know that God is a good God. When need to know that he knows what he is doing and he sees a bigger picture and everything that he does will work to the good in our lives and that's what our God is doing, he's looking out and he's at work. I know that some of you are saying you know what, I've tried to invite people to church and they just won't come. I've tried to talk to my parents about God and tried to talk to my cousin, I've tried to talk to my coworkers, they won't listen, they laugh at me, it just doesn't do any good, I just give up. I want you to understand, that people, God knows what going on in their life and God is control. I want you to hear the statistic, it blew me away. First of all, fifty percent of Ellis County doesn't go to church, did you know that? Fifty percent, now you think man, we're right here in the Bible belt, how do people not go to church in this area? It's not because they can't find one, I can throw a rock and hit two. There are churches everywhere, but fifty percent don't go. Do you know what thirty percent of them are waiting for? To be invited. Thirty percent of lost people said, if someone I know will invite me to church, I will go. How many people are all around us today and all they are doing is waiting for you to look at them and say, will you go to church with me. Thirty percent are saying if you ask me, I will come. But we don't ask, we don't ask. The church spends thousands of dollars publicizing, putting up signs, putting it in the paper, putting in on postcards, but you know how people will come to church by you asking them to church and even though you say, I've tried, and I've tried that doesn't matter, try again. Try over and over. Be in God's will, help people remove slavery, it does not matter. It doesn't matter if they say they are coming to church or not, God is in control. See, you have to have a time to understand, but then you have to push through and have a time to trust. We need to trust that God is in control and we need to keep asking people and we need to see people as projects. Let me tell you one of the things that we used to do that was horrible. We used to knock on doors of people who we didn't know, remember that? It doesn't work. Knock on the door; hey you want to go to church? Are you Jehovah witness? No. Are you Mormon? No. I already go to church. Okay, good to see you. People are going to come to church because of somebody they know. See, they're not project and that's where we get lost sometimes because we think people are projects. I'm going help that person, I'm going work with that person, I'm going to work with them and get them saved. No, that's not what God does. God knows about that

person. He wants you to treat them as a person. He wants you to love them and then trust them to take care of it. It's not your job to save people, only Jesus does that. It's your job to be obedient and to talk and to tell. Now, let's go back to the story real quick. Look again, here she is, she's on the edge of the Nile, she's watching the baby, she's praying, God please, then look what happens...Pharaoh's daughter went down to the river to bathe and her attendants were walking along the river bank, she saw the basket among the reeds and sent her slave girl to get it. Now, those of you who know the story are like, yea! No, not Miriam! Miriam's in the water and she sees Pharaoh's daughter coming to get the baby. She is saying, God, I've been praying to you, asking you to rescue my brother. Pharaoh's daughter, really! Why didn't you just let Pharaoh come down and kill him? It couldn't have been worse, unless Pharaoh was in the water. So Miriam's heart is broken and she's thinking God, we have asked you to protect this child and look at what you've done. You give us a boy when we want a girl, we can't keep him hidden, we put him in the water, hoping he lives and you let Pharaoh's daughter see him. You're not a good God. She's broken hearted. At this point, I guarantee you she felt like a lot of you do when you've been telling people about Christ. She just wanted to give up. She wanted to turn around and walk off. She wanted to go home and say mom, it's over. That God of ours put the baby right into Pharaoh's hands. Because in her mind she knew the Pharaoh's daughter was going to take this baby, see it's a Hebrew, and walk it back up and they will kill it. Isn't that scary? That's where she was in the story. Now, we know the story goes on. I know you feel like giving up, walking away, but that's the time we've got to trust God. It says in verse 6 she opened it and he was crying and she felt sorry for him. You think, of course she did, it's a baby, we all feel sorry for babies when they're crying. That's not true. Have you ever been out to eat? Do you feel sorry for that baby? Have you ever been in the movie? You feel sorry for that baby? I love to watch those of you who don't have kids, because you know exactly how to parent, I love that. You sit there and say, somebody ought to shut that kid up. If that was my kid I would... and those of us who have had kids just look at you and go, oh, bless you're heart. That's all we got for you. I've added a new wrinkle to it because I'm kind of a mean person. Now I go up to people who are really struggling with their kids and say, awe, it is going to get worse, trust me. This is the best time. Yeah, they're going to get older and not do what you say and rebel against you and it's going to get a lot worse. Enjoy your life! So anyway, she felt sorry for the baby. Now you realize, she felt sorry for the baby, you're thinking she probably didn't know it was a Hebrew child. Look at the next line; this is one of the Hebrew babies. She knew it was a Hebrew child. Miriam takes this moment to act and I think it gets lost in here sometimes. We don't see how impressive that is. See, Miriam steps out from the reeds and she takes time to act. This could cost her life. She doesn't know where this story is going like you do. She steps out and there's a time to understand people are hurting and need us, there's a time to trust that God is in control no matter if it looks like it or not, but ladies and gentlemen, there is a time to act. There is a time to act and Miriam took that moment and she stepped out

of those reeds and she walked up to Pharaoh's daughter, she risked her life because she knew it was time to act. She had to do something; she couldn't stand there any longer. It's kind of like when you are in middle school. Some of you boys will understand this, girls you will miss it. Whenever you heard there was going to be a fight, everybody would get around in a circle and the two people who were mad at each other, what do they do? They got right in each other's face, bowed up their chests, stared at each other and then they would start that slow circle walking around, talking noise, talking smack the whole time. Hit me, hit me, I dare you. Say something about my mama, I dare you. I was always in that group and I was in the back praying for them not to fight. I was always in the back yelling hit him, fight. One of my friends found the secret. You walk up and you push the one of them into the other one and they would start fighting. You got to see a good fight, never the less; the idea is we got tired of seeing people walk around in circle talking about what they were going to do. That was boring and I wonder how tired God gets of churches talking about evangelism and never doing it. I wonder if God gets tired of people talking about people reaching the lost but never taking action to do it. I wonder if God gets tired of churches talking about it's our mission to reach lost people, but never doing it. See, there comes a time to act, there comes a time to step out from the reeds. This is what she did, read it with me. Here in the story she says, then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you? She took action; she didn't stand at the side. She didn't continue to pray about it. She didn't want to form a bible study group to discuss the possibilities and the theological implications of what God was doing. She took action. She stepped out and she did something and ladies and gentlemen, there are so many in here that God is calling to action and you want to pray about it. Let me tell you something...prayer has been used as an excuse for inactivity in the church long enough. People constantly want to pray together instead of serve and go out and reach lost people. Don't tell me that you want me to pray for somebody unless you're willing to get off your bottom and go do something about it. I don't want to pray for them, I want to pray for you to have the courage to step out and take action. That's what God's looking for. Stop playing safe, stop joining bible studies and praying together about God can reach the lost people and go reach them. Take action. Look what happens as the story goes on. Oh wait, one more thing I need to tell you because it happens all the time, taking action is not picking up the phone and calling a staff member to go visit. I know none of you have done that, so I don't know where all those voicemails come from but, that's what I call terrorism evangelism. We're terrorists. Hey preacher, if you come by, the neighbors out mowing his yard. You can catch him, hurry! It's kind of like a drive by. Let me tell you something, if Jesus puts someone on your heart, it's your job to go not mine. That's not what we're called to do. We're called to equip you. It's not about us growing the church. It's so funny because the church growth isn't about what the staff does; it's about what you do. You take action. Look at this story, it goes on. Yes, go she answered and the girl went and got the baby's mother. The baby's mother,

how exciting is that? Pharaoh's daughter said to her, take this baby and nurse him for me and I will pay you. Now, here's God, he's starting welfare way back then. You get to take care of your own baby and the government sends you a check. It's amazing! First welfare case recorded right there in the bible. Take your own child, take care of it and I am going to pay you from the Pharaoh's treasury. How awesome is that? What do you think this family did? Here God was a mean God, God wasn't there for them, and God was just not good. But God had worked it out for her to take care of her baby and get a check for it. I wish someone would give me a check for taking care of my baby's. That's pretty impressive. That's a good God and guess what? The story doesn't end there. The women took the baby and nursed him when the child grew older she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses saying I drew him out of the water. Moses. Now I know that those of you who knew the story knew that was coming. But here this baby that God has destined to be one of the most powerful, influential leaders in the entire world, here this baby that all three major religions looked to, all three looked to as a man of God, someone who followed the Lord, he becomes the deliverer in this book. He is the hero in this story besides God. He is the one God uses to free his people. Here this Moses, just because his sister stood out, stepped forward, took action and I wonder who's outside our doors waiting for you to take action. Is it a family member, a friend, a coworker? You know the next great evangelist of our day; the next Billy Graham might be right outside these doors waiting for you to take action. The next Rick Warren might be right outside those doors waiting for you to take action. The next Cory Hines might be right outside these doors waiting for you to take action. So I want to ask you, do you have time? You want to keep these chains off? You want to keep from being in bondage to sin? Then look around and see who else you can help. Look around, take action, and help them remove their chains. And while you're removing theirs, you won't have to worry about them being bound on you, take that step.