

**Bible Devotions: Lock Stock & Barrel  
Devotional Reading for Outdoorsmen  
(Old Testament)**

Exodus 5:1; 10:9

Feast or Famine

*Afterward Moses and Aaron went in and told Pharaoh, "Thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'Let My people go, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness.'"*

*And Moses said, "We will go with our young and our old; with our sons and our daughters, with our flocks and our herds we will go, for we must hold a feast to the Lord."*

The message Moses delivered to Pharaoh was loud and clear: Let God's people go so they could serve Him in the wilderness. But the stubborn leader held the Israelites captive so they could serve him instead (Exodus 14:5). Thus ensued a rather lengthy struggle between Moses and Pharaoh. God won. Egypt lost.

Without a doubt, God could have intervened with His divine power at any time. Well, actually He did. In the grand scheme of things, He brought about signs and wonders that culminated in the release of His people. Of course, He knew from the beginning what the end would be. Everything in between was His way of holding true to His word: *By this you shall know that I am the Lord* (Exodus 7:17).

In the course of Biblical history, God revealed Himself through signs and wonders so people could know Him as Lord (Exodus 10:2). Now, He makes Himself known to us through the work of His Holy Spirit so people can know Him as Lord (I Corinthians 12:3). The dwelling of the Holy Spirit in the heart of a man is itself a sign of a wonderful thing – freedom from the famine of sin. In a word, salvation.

Even today, God invites people to join Him for a feast in the wilderness. *Now is the accepted time... now is the day of salvation* (II Corinthians 6:2). Jesus has ordered Pharaoh Lucifer to let God's people go. Jesus nailed that order to the cross for all the world to see, then came back to life to personally enforce this holy edict for freedom from sin. Like Pharaoh's army swallowed up by the Red Sea, death has been swallowed up in victory (I Corinthians 15:54). God won. Again.

The feast is a joyful celebration of knowing Jesus is Lord. It is in a wilderness no man can go unless the Savior leads the way. The place? A safe field for the Shepherd's flock. For us, His faithful followers, it is the mountain of the Lord. It is heaven here, for *I (Jesus) have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly* (John 10:10); and in the hereafter, for *if I (Jesus) go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also* (John 14:3).

Everything in between the sinful fall of man and a salvific encounter with Jesus is all about God showing the world that He is Lord. And then comes the feast. Through the message of Jesus Christ, God calls to us. Young and old, male and female – everyone must choose either to hang out in Egypt or to head for the wilderness.

The choice is loud and clear: feast of famine.

*And in this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all people a feast of choice pieces,  
a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of well-refined wines on the lees.*

*And He will destroy on this mountain the surface of the covering cast over all people,  
and the veil that is spread over all nations.*

*He will swallow up death forever, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces;  
The rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; For the Lord has spoken.*

(Isaiah 25:6-8)

## Bible Devotions: Hook Line & Sinker (study guide)

Exodus 5:1; 10:9  
Feast or Famine

### HOOK

1. What is the largest feast you've ever attended?

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2. Write your description of a wilderness area.

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3. List three mountains or hill country you have visited. Name a prominent feature of each one.

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### LINE

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Everything in between the sinful fall of man and a salvific encounter with Jesus is all about God showing the world that He is Lord.

Describe how God called you to know His Son as Lord? If you haven't heard His call, will you: tell Jesus that you are a sinner... ask Him to forgive you of your sins... confess Jesus is Lord?

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How are you experiencing heaven right now? Discuss how Jesus is blessing your life.

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### SINKER

Take a few minutes to write your thoughts on this devotional. Reflect on your own experiences.

Key words:    feast                    heaven                    wilderness

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