

# The Plagues of Egypt

Sermon Title: **When People Will Not Listen to You**

Sermon Number: **5684**

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Nathaniel Bronner: You can't help other folk if you won't be quite enough to hear what they are saying.

Female: You are listening to BrothersoftheWord.com. This is part 5 of the series titled, "The Plagues of Egypt", subtitled, "When People Will Not Listen to You" by Nathaniel Bronner. This sermon is number 5864.

(Music Playing: 00:00:16 - 00:00:528)

Female: And now for the Plagues of Egypt Part 5, When People Will Not Listen to You.

Nathaniel Bronner: Welcome to Brothers of the Word because, brother, you need the word. And I am right now in the middle of a series called the Plagues of Egypt. And when God told me to preach this series, I said, "Well, I don't see how all those plagues are going to relate." So, I'm going to give you revelation on how every single one of the plagues relates to what we're dealing with today and to be honest, today is plague number four and we haven't even gotten to the 10 traditional plagues yet. The same stuff that was then still now. We are the same folk with the same stuff dealing with the same issues.

Plague number one was bumps over blessings and this was when Jacob, when Pharaoh asked him how he was doing, he told him, "I'm not as old as my father and my life has just yet been full of hard stuff." And that was entitled bumps over blessings. When we focus on our bumps over all of the blessings that God has granted us, Plague number two was called the plague that saved your life and plague number three, the plague of stubbornness.

And today, AV department, if you would play the first file as we listen to the scripture for today's message.

Male: Exodus Chapter 7. "The Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I have made you as God to Pharaoh, and Aaron, your brother, shall be your prophet. You shall speak all that I command you. And Aaron, your brother, shall speak to Pharaoh that he let the children of Israel go out of his land. I will harden Pharaoh's heart and multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt, but Pharaoh will not listen to you."

Nathaniel Bronner: Plague number four, when people will not listen to you. You know, this stuff is just as relevant today as it was, and anybody and they just won't listen to you. Anybody got any a situation like that where folks just won't listen to you.? So, here, right after we get through with the plague of stubbornness just even on Moses and God is telling him, "Pharaoh is not going to listen to you." And we got a plague even today of where folks just won't listen.

Pull up the first picture there. this is the picture -- I don't know whether this is real. Actually, it wasn't really real, but it says -- you all can read what it says that a man played deaf for 62 years. So, he will not have to listen to his wife. Now, I think that's a parody. I don't believe that was a real new story, but it was ran as a real new story and a whole lot of folks thought it was true. The man just played deaf for 62 years so that he would not have to listen to his wife.

Adults don't listen to God, spouses don't listen to each other. Children don't listen to parents. Politicians definitely don't listen to each other. People in the holy land won't listen to each other. Even right now in the country where this setting in the Bible happened in Egypt. Today is going through a massive political strife and economic strife because the man in charge won't listen to anybody else. So, the plague of when people will not listen to you is still just as prevalent today as it was in the time of Moses and Pharaoh. Money is often is cited as the number one cause of divorce, but a poll of 100 mental health professionals found that communication problems were cited as the most common factor that leads to divorce.

So, what do you do when someone won't listen to you? If you're in a relationship, and relationships, not just romantic, there are family relationships, there are business relationships. Even in business, a lot of people come to me for advice and the bottom line is about 75% of the people who come to me for advice.

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And out of those people who come half of them said God told them to come and get counsel from me. And when I tell them what to do, 75% of folks, they just won't listen. They just won't listen. So, what do you do when folks just won't listen to you?

So, I'm going to give you some keys today for those who are faced with the plague of when someone just won't listen to you. Now see, God hardened Pharaoh's heart and we don't know what's behind a lot of people not listening to us. Sometimes, it's a whole another story, a whole different reason. Sometimes, it's us is to why they won't listen to us. There are varying reasons, but all of us sooner later will eventually or will constantly face situations where folks just won't listen to us. So, what do you do when folks just won't listen to you? Just look at the person next to you. what do you do when folk just won't listen to you? What do you do?

First thing you need to do is this, you need to examine what you are saying. It seems real simple but that's the first thing you need to do is examine what you are saying. When they did a survey among these hundred mental health professionals, the survey found that men and women have different communication complaints. So, if you're talking about a relationship between a man and a woman, they actually have different reasons why they don't listen to each other, but the bottom line is still the same thing, they just won't listen to each other.

The number one reason of the man as to why he won't listen to the woman -- this is not me, this is the survey of people saying this. These are the mental health professionals, so these are other folks. And I'm sure I want you to take good notes so you can tell other people outside of this church about this because you don't have this issue, but this is for other folks who have this issue. The man said that the reason that they don't listen to the women is because they're always nagging and complaining. And I've heard other pastors talk about when couples come in for counselling. The man said, "Every time I talk to her, it's always a problem. The minute I get home is this broke. This need to be paid. There's a problem with this. Junior acting up. There's always a problem. I worked all day, pastor. When I come home, I don't want to hear about no problems. I've been dealing with problem all day long. So, when I come home, all she wants to do is jump on me problem after problem after problem -- don't anybody say, Amen. But all she wants to do is jump on me problem after problem after problem. And I want some soothing. I want some loving. I want somebody to rub my feet and I talk about the carpet needs cleaning. I want some attention and I want some sweetness. I don't want to hear about any more problems. So, that's why I don't listen. And this is the number one complain among men about women is that when they do talk,

it's problem or it's a venting situation. In other words, it's something negative that needs to be fixed or solved. And when the man get home, he doesn't want to hear that.

But the women say this. The women say the men won't open up about how they feel of what's going on in their world if they do get home and the women asked, "How has your day been?" "All right." And the men are not expressive. Does this relate to anybody you all know -- and I'm not talking about anybody here, I mean anybody you all know out there. So, this is why often couples won't listen to each other because of what they're saying.

The men are simply not saying enough. They just won't open up and talk and the women, when they do talk, it's always about problems. So, sometimes if we can change, you first of all have to recognize and you should be able to even solve an issue. So, if we can first of all recognize that maybe I need to change my communication. When he gets home, I need to tell him how good he looks. I need to see if there's anything I can do for him before I add the problem on him. So, if we change the way we communicate if women gets home, the first thing you say is, "Baby, is there anything I can do? Anything you need? Looking so good today." I guarantee you'll hear that. I can guarantee he will hear that.

The same thing when the man gets home, if you open up to the woman about some of the things that they want to talk about, some of the things that maybe emotional, some of things that are touching. Instead of just okay, I'll just -- if you just open up, I guarantee it will change the conversation.

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So, first of all, you need to examine exactly what you are saying. Philippians 4:8 said, "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are honest, whatever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are good report, if there be any virtue and if there be any praise, think on these things." Not only do you need to think on, you need to talk on them. So, if you talk on the good things, it will change how much you talk. So, that's number one. Examine what you're saying.

Number two, take the focus off of you. I remember we had our training at the company years ago and it was from Dale Carnegie's course called, "How to Win Friends and Influence People." And it said, "If you want people to be interested in what you're saying, say something about them instead of you." This is a whole different sometime shift in the American psyche. You see, we have gotten so been out of shape with selfies. So, the camera now has changed. It used to be in the old days, the camera could only take a picture that way. Now, a huge number of the photographs we take are selfies. So, we spent so much time and so much energy and so much talk focusing on self and it makes a huge difference. My daddy used to. He said, "Son, the sweetest words that anybody will ever hear is their own name."

When you said their own name, their ears perk up. If you have a group picture -- you all had ever seen a big group picture? And if you're in that big group picture, it could be hundred folks in the picture, A hundred good-looking folks. But when you go look at that picture, what are you're looking for? There's a hundred folks in the picture, lot of good-looking folks in the picture. But no matter how many people are in that picture, the one person who you are looking for in that picture is you.

So, in your conversation instead of just focusing on you and your stuff, if you learn how to draw people out -- and I remember reading an article and it talked about the three magic words that will spice up any conversation and get people involved. Those three magic words are simply these.

Tell me more. Those three magic words, tell me more. If somebody is talking, "Tell me more about that. Oh, yes." It changes everything. So, if you can take the focus off of you. Oftentimes, we're only listening to someone else to wait for them to take a breath so we can get our stuff in. But if you truly become interested, if you truly draw them out, if you truly become interested and want to hear what they have to say, it changes conversation. So, that's the second thing. Take the focus off of you.

Third thing is this, use a criticism sandwich. Let me tell you what a criticism sandwich is. Put the next slide up on the screen. This is the criticism sandwich. If you have to say something negative to someone, if you have to bring correction in, and oftentimes, we do, what you need to do is put it in what's called a criticism

sandwich. Instead of just telling them all the negative stuff, you start off with a praise then you put your corrective stuff in the middle, that's the meat of the thing and then you end with a praise. And when you do that, and this is a technique that really good managers will always do.

For example, if you have an employee that is later a whole lot and if you have to bring him in the office to tell them that they're late. The minute they come to the door, "You see, you've really been doing a very good job, the quality of your work is just excellent. It's really, really good." "Oh, thank you, thank you, thank you." "The only little thing that you have that you may need to improve upon is your timeliness of getting here because a lot of people are looking at you and they really take interest in how you're doing. So, if you can just get here on time, if you can get here perfect because you are really doing a fantastic job. You know, the piece you put together in an article you wrote last week was just phenomenal. Thank you." When you leave out of your office, you started them out with the praise, you put the corrective part in and you left them with a praise.

See, often, all we do is just the criticism and that's not only a principle and our job is principle in relationship, it's principle with your children. Don't just fuss out them all the time, tell them what they're doing right. So when you tell them what they're doing right and if you have to bring correction, and often, we do have to bring correction, is the style in which we do it that makes a difference. So, if you put it in what's called a criticism sandwich with sweet stuff on the outside and on the bottom, and whatever you have to correct in the middle, it becomes a whole lot more palatable and they leave feeling a whole lot better.

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And they don't think every time they come to talk to me, we got got negative to say. They always criticize them. Sometimes, you all know for who is always criticizing and they just always criticizing. So, if you learn how to learn a criticism sandwich where you have praise on the outside, that's the bun, and whatever you have to do to correct or criticize, that becomes the meat in the middle, makes the difference.

Fourth thing is this, make sure your breath is sweet. Now, that may sound kind of silly, but it's not. I know we had an incident if



the -- our show was just over a couple of weeks ago and we had an incident and I had an incident with an exhibitor who was just telling me a whole lot of negative stuff. But the main thing that impacted me and I had to stent -- their breath was just smelling horrible. And it wasn't even the negative stuff they were saying that make me want to get away, the breath was just bad. And I was talking with one of the managers later, this is just two later. And I said, this person came to the exhibit booth and I said, were their breath -- yeah, it was just horrible.

So, when you put stuff and sweetness, and it's not just breath, it's the whole, what I would call, aroma of your persona. When you make your whole aroma of your persona sweet, no matter what you are saying, people, they want to listen to it a lot better and the aroma of your persona is not just breath. It's even your smile. It just makes a difference if you're just smiling. It just makes a difference. If you tell it some -- do you know it's hard for a person that get mad at you when you're just smiling. So, if you make your persona, if you're asking the question, why won't folks listen to me.

If you go through and analyze and make these changes, it truly does make a difference. So, when you change your persona, make sure your breath is sweet, make sure your smile is on your face. Make sure you have a vibration of positiveness. It just makes a difference and people are drawn to you instead of being repelled from you.

Fifth thing, have your actions right. Sometimes, folks don't want to listen to you because you lied to him before. Some folks, I don't even want to hear what they got to say because they told so many lies. First of all, you don't know whether they're telling the truth on this one or not. They're going to lie so much you don't even want to hear because you got to go through this filthy in your mind to see are they telling me the truth this time or are they lying again. So, you need to make sure your actions are right. And when your actions are right, because a lot of times, people just tune you out because they had just bad experience. They won't listen to you because they just had some bad experiences because your actions have not been right and along with those actions being right, sometimes, people are just not going to listen to you. It has nothing to do with you, they just not going to listen to you. So, you always have to ask yourself about your actions,



have I done what I'm supposed to do? Have I done what I am supposed to do? Have my actions been right.

If they're not listening to you, ask yourself, have I done what I am supposed to do? Have I done what I am supposed to do? And you haven't done what you supposed to do, you need to get your actions right before you try to get them to listen to you.

Number 6, be truthful, just simple as that. That goes back to having your actions right. Be truthful because folks just don't want to listen to folks if they think they're lying. It is all it is to it. They just don't want to hear you if they think that you are lying. And even with God, God went through a lot of these steps just dealing with the children of Israel.

In 2nd Chronicle 7:14, and this is a verse all of us know so well, just like we know the whatsoever things are good and we heard this over and over. "If my people who are called by My name shall humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from Heaven, forgive their sin and heal their land."

God said, I'm not even listening to some folks. I'm not even going to hear it until some things are changed. And God sends people and tells them somebody's basic steps. First of all, He says this, "If My people which are called by My name," that's number one as you need to be in the house. "If My people who are called by My name." First thing he says, "Shall humble themselves." See, that's getting away from the minion mind and the pride and the focusing on just you.

He said, first of all, you got to do is humble yourself. Can you humble yourself to listen to somebody else and be concerned about their stuff and their story and what happened in their day instead of just want to tell them all about your stuff and your day and all what's going on with you? Because everybody got issues. Everybody has issues, and everybody -- do you know that even with ministry and counseling in most psychologist.

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That's why psychologists just have a couch in the room and a pad and when people go to talking, 90% of the therapy is just letting folks talk because folk don't have anybody who would listen to

them. So, listening is a great benefit but you can't listen if you're talking and you can't listen to other folks, you can't help other folk if you want to be quiet enough to hear what they are saying.

So, first of all, just humble yourself. "If My people were called by My name will humble themselves and praise." See, all of the stuff is dealing with taking yourself down and your own ego down and raising God up and seek my face and then turn from their wicked ways. That's right action. Then God said, "I'll listen to him. I'll hear from heaven, forgive their sins and heal their land." The plague of not listening and people just not listening to you. How do you fix that? I gave you several steps on doing it.

Most of us need to take at least one of those steps because we got at least one of those areas to make some major changes in, just one, not all seven, just one of those areas. And everybody under the sound of my voice, one of those area stood out to you. I want you to close your eyes and repeat that area, whatever it was. One of those areas stood out to you and you know you needed to make a change with one of those areas. They stood out with you. Examine that you were saying, take the focus off of you, use the criticism sandwich, make sure your breath and your persona is sweet, have your actions right, be truthful. One of those stood out to you. And maybe even today, with someone you having an issue with, if you just need to go to him, just say, "Tell me how things are going." In the end, just do one of the most difficult things for most Americans to do, shut up. "How's your day been going?" And then shut up and listen to them.

Everybody want somebody to listen to us, everybody wants to be healed but sometimes we are called to be the healer. And in a good relationship, you heal each other. So, you listen to each other. That's why when you really analyze, your money is number one, and sex is number two, but usually when stuff go wrong with money, to render my money, class is going to continue today, right after this service. But what they often find in the first presentation, they found that the couples never sat down to talk about money. So, there was a communication problem to start with. They weren't listening. They didn't talk. They never sat down to really talk about money. So, when you sit down, money is number one, and sex is number two. You never sit down and you talk about sex and as a result, it doesn't get fixed. So, these are some of the keys to deal with the plague of when folk won't listen to you.

That one is a really exciting sermon today, but if you take some of those keys, it can bring some major changes just in relationships whether you're in the personal relationship, whether it's a job relationship, whether you're sitting next to a co-worker. People sometimes just need someone to listen to them and it makes the world different.

We had a situation when the office -- and actually, with a customer just as irate as they could be and it wasn't anything we had done, they were just -- man, I could tell that. I said, "Let me handle this." And I wrote them a very long letter that detailed a whole lot of stuff. And I said, "I'm going to take time to answer every one of your concerns in detail." And they wrote back and they said, "I am so sorry. I was just going through a whole lot." They said, "My daddy was going through this and as a result it causes -- I am so sorry."

See, a lot of time, the issues that you're having with other people, they're going through some stuff. You're not the only one. Folks are just going through stuff and sometimes just a sympathetic listening ear can make all the difference in the world in their lives. And with the couples, just putting stuff in that sandwich. The women, yeah, you got issues with stuff and it's kind of problem, but put that thing in a problem sandwich. Put that in the middle. Start off with something that he wants.

Imagine you coming home after a hard day's work all day. You don't want to hear about the dishwasher clogged up and the commode overflowing. You don't want to hear about that. That may need handling, but that's not what you want to hear about when you walk through the door. So, you put it in a criticism or problem sandwich. You looking so good today or your hair looking like, you even smell good. By the way the commode overrun and all your shoes are so sharp. You put it in a criticism sandwich and it makes the difference. It really, really does. So, it'll change us the vibration of a whole lot of stuff, and we can learn these basic simple techniques and we change the plague of when people won't listen you.

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I'm going to ask Pastor James to close us out for the day. Amen.

Pastor James: Amen. Thank you, Pastor, for giving us this awesome message today of When People Won't Listen to You. And I tell you, there are \$100 and \$200 seminars that wouldn't have given you the amount of information that you got. I'm just going to go over them one more time so you can make sure that you take them with you.

First is examine what you're saying; number two is to take the focus off of you; number three is to use a criticism sandwich with praise and corrective and praise; number four is to make sure your breath and persona are both sweet; and then to have the right actions be truthful and humble yourself. We'll just do these things. It'll help us at home and in our jobs and you'll just find that even more difficult people on the job, you'll be able to get along with better. So, we thank him for this.

And another thing that I might add is just when people are talking to just stay off of your cellphones. Cellphones now has just become such a distraction. If you go in a restaurant and look, you'll see couples on their cellphones and might be a \$100 meal, but they're not paying attention to each other. So, they've just taken the focus off so much. We need more focus on each other and less on what's going on our phones. So, we thank Pastor just for this awesome word that will help us in all of the relationships of life. Amen.

Let us pray. Lord, we just thank you for this day. We thank you Lord for giving us keys, our Father, to help us to be heard, O' Lord, and to help us to hear others, O' Lord. We thank you Lord for hearing us, O' Father. As our Father, we thank you for never being too busy, O' Lord. Never been too distracted to hear our earnest prayers, O' Lord, even though you keep the universe running and keeping the sun rising and setting, keeping the waves in check, making flowers and trees to grow, but yet, you still listen and hear our small prayers, O' Father. We thank you for loving us. For showing us such attention. We thank you Lord for that relationship that we don't take for granted, O' Lord. In the precious name of Jesus, we pray. Amen, amen.

Nathaniel Bronner: You can go to BrothersoftheWord.com, you can listen to the entire series called, the Plagues of Egypt. And each one of these plaques that happened in ancient times, they're still probable and they're still relevant to us today. They're absolutely free, the entire series. We thank you for joining us today at Brothers of

the Word, because, brother, you need the word. Amen, amen, amen.

Female: You are listening to BrotheroftheWord.com. This was Part 5 of the series titled, "The Plagues of Egypt," subtitled, "When People Will Not Listen to You" by Nathaniel Bronner. This sermon is number 5864. That's 5864. To listen to thousands of free sermons or to send this sermon number 5864 to a friend, go to BrothersoftheWord.com.

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