



Journey to Freedom

“He is Mighty to Save” (Exodus 14:1-31)

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We continue our mini-series *Journey to Freedom* by celebrating the wonder of God’s deliverance of his people as He made a path for them on dry ground THROUGH the parted waters of the Red Sea.

Today’s message began with our sharing in Communion together – our New Covenant experience (in Jesus’ sacrifice for us) of Yahweh’s Old Covenant provision for His Hebrew people: Plague 10 (left hanging last week) was “the death of the firstborn”. A death angel was sent to kill the firstborn male of every household in the land, but Yahweh made provision for His people – if they would sacrifice an unblemished lamb and put its blood on the top and sides of their doorways, the death angel would “Passover” these homes and the firstborns would be saved. A powerful foreshadow of God’s plan of global redemption through Jesus, “the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.”

We skip forward in the story to the Red Sea. God has orchestrated the steps of the Israelites for His divine purpose and glory. They are now encamped before the Red Sea. “Pharaoh will think, ‘the Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert.’ ‘And I [Yahweh] will harden Pharaoh’s heart and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself...’” Exodus 14:3-4

- God is leading them; they are following... even though this doesn’t SEEM a good path. Often God is leading and working in our own lives, in ways we don’t understand, because He sees the bigger picture of what he is doing. **Will we trust in Him?**
- Again, we have this “hardening of Pharaoh’s heart” by God. It is somewhat confusing, even troubling. The short of it is – this is actually a continuation of Pharaoh’s OWN rebellion and hardness of heart. Pharaoh has already chosen his response to God and set his heart against Yahweh; God is simply responding to his

choice... “so, I gave them over to their stubborn hearts to follow their own devices.” Psalm 81:11-12

This is a sober warning for us. This Psalm verse is NOT about enemies of God but rather his own Israelite people.

- Ex 14:8 – “the Israelites were marching out [from Egypt] BOLDLY.” Oh, the joy, hope, and confidence we can have when we see the hand of God setting us FREE!
 - But sadly and quickly their bold confidence turns to fear, doubt, and cynicism: “As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up at the Egyptians marching after them. They were terrified . . . they said to Moses, ‘Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? . . . didn’t we say to you in Egypt, ‘leave us alone’?... it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert.’”
Exodus 14:10-12

How quickly their fickle hearts forget and doubt! **And what of us – do we?!**

- In life, we often find ourselves with our backs against a Red Sea and the “chariots” of trouble bearing down on us. Will we remember the grace and goodness of God in our lives? Will we rest in *El Roi* – the God who sees? Will we trust in the “way-maker” who opens paths of healing, deliverance and transformation through parted Red Sea waters?
 - Will we believe in our loving, present God even IF the circumstances don’t unfold like we hope for?
- “Moses answered the people. ‘Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.’” Ex 14:13-14

*** HOW do we “stand firm and be still”?**

- 1. Don’t let fear paralyze us.** Remember who God is and all He has done; hold to faith.
- 2. Get moving.** Commit to the direction the Lord gives: “Tell the Israelites to **move on**. Raise your staff ... to part the waters so the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground.” Ex 14:15-16

- Ex 14:19-31: the people passed through on the dry ground between the waters but the Egyptian army was destroyed as the waters flowed back over them... “that day the Lord saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians... when the Israelites saw the great power the Lord displayed, they feared the Lord and put their trust in Him.”
- “The Lord is Mighty to Save” . . . **do we believe it?!**
- We live in a world full of chaotic, churning waters. Until the restoration of all things, we will contend with such, but our loving, mighty God knows how to make a way THROUGH such waters. We can trust and rest in Him.