

Lessons in Exodus 6 11-12-00

Exodus 13:15-16 – The mark of God's redemption – a great redemption, that deliverance (a picture of future deliverance by the blood of Christ from sin) should mark all we do and how we see ourselves. It should be plain as the nose on our face. REDEEMED with a great deliverance! Passover has been changed to communion. That ceremony should be like a brand on our hands and foreheads, our actions and thoughts.

17,21,22 God's direction beyond our understanding, seems the long way around, but it is his loving Father's heart, for you and the world. He wants you to know and trust. He wants the world to know He is God. God knows exactly what you can handle and what is too much for you. Since you are his child, He will stretch you, even break you, but He will not give you too much. If you decide to go back to Egypt it is your unwilling heart. Everyday the cloud goes before you and you can get up and follow or you can turn around and go back to the world – doing your own thing.

14:1 Then the LORD said to Moses,² "Tell the Israelites to turn back and encamp near Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. They are to encamp by the sea, directly opposite Baal Zephon.³ Pharaoh will think, 'The Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert.'⁴ And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD." So the Israelites did this. Ex 14:1-4 (NIV)

God intentionally leads Israel to an impossible place. It seems there is no way out. Mountains on each side, the sea before them, Pharaoh's army behind them. God often takes us into the impossible situation to help us in our walk of faith. Remember it is faith that pleases Him – a believing in what cannot be seen. Instead of going the short easy and obvious way, God takes you to this impossible place to increase your faith. There is still some doubt in the Egyptian's hearts as to who is really God. The LORD says, "Now I'm going to settle the issue for them. It will be at hard hearted Pharaoh's expense." Pharaoh is reaping what he has sown. God is demonstrating his justice, defeating his foes, and liberating his people. The same thing He did on Calvary.

⁵ When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds about them and said, "What have we done? We have let the Israelites go and have lost their services!"⁶ So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him.⁷ He took six hundred of the best chariots, along with all the other chariots of Egypt, with officers over all of them.⁸ The LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, so that he pursued the Israelites, who were marching out boldly.⁹ The Egyptians--all Pharaoh's horses and chariots, horsemen and troops--pursued the Israelites and overtook them as they camped by the sea near Pi Hahiroth, opposite Baal Zephon.¹⁰ As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the LORD.¹¹ They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt?"

Sometimes we start out with boldness (8) and when we see our circumstances - the visible ones- we become terrified. Satan delights in putting fear into people. Then he can manipulate them and keep their eyes on him instead of God. The first of a lot of

murmuring on the journey and a whine that would be repeated again and again. They complained that Moses brought them out but it wasn't Moses that brought them out, but God. Amazing that they are as blind as the Egyptians. Amazing that we can be as blind as the Egyptians, not recognizing what God is doing!

¹² Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians'? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!" Slave to God or a slave to man, which seems best to you? Oh how short sighted to think dying as a slave to man is somehow better than dying in service to God. They were delivered but they still did not see what they were delivered to. They couldn't see the greatness of their God or the ugliness of slavery to man. Delivered but not yet mature, looking back to the familiar. What a warning!

Ro 6:16-23¹⁶ Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey--whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?¹⁷ But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted.¹⁸ You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.¹⁹ I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness.²⁰ When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness.²¹ What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death!²² But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. – This is the contrast the CoI are facing, that we face.

¹³ 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.¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still." Pharaoh (shadow of Satan) wants to terrify them and he is successful. But Moses speaks faith and commands them not to fear, but to trust in the Lord's deliverance. Don't fear! Fear expresses a lack of conviction in the ability and Sovereignty of God. He turns their eyes off Pharaoh and to Almighty God. He voices faith in what the Lord has told him, inspiring faith in the people. Stand firm! and you **will** see. Don't run - don't waver - don't doubt, keep your eyes on God and believe.

The Lord is going to fight for you and you don't need to help him out. It is always a temptation to do what man can do. Most of us would have common sense and put the best warriors in the rear in hope the women and children could escape, you know, just in case. Who knows if Moses got it exactly right!? That would have just been an expression of their lack of faith and slowed them down. To me this is a picture of salvation, this is the life of faith, - letting God fight for us as we are still - looking to Him to do what we can't. You can't defeat Satan, or your flesh, but if you will be still, trusting in God, counting on his grace, you will see Him fight for you.

¹⁵ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on.¹⁶ Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so

that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground.¹⁷ I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen.¹⁸ The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen." ¹⁹ Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them,²⁰ coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

God is saying, "Stop crying, I heard you already, I had a plan already, I led you here on purpose - remember?" Staff pointed to God, hand over the sea - like a lightning rod, a picture of the power of God through an instrument of God. Not only is the sea parted that we can walk through the world but the ground under our feet is dry. We walk on holy ground the Lord has prepared for us to walk on. The wind – his Spirit has made a way and by faith we step into what looks very dangerous. The biggest night light ever is lighting the way before them. While they are calling out the Lord Jesus goes in-between the forces of evil and the Children of God to protect them. The Lord is my shield, my fortress, my strong tower, the One in whom I place my trust.

He is demonstrating to Egypt that He alone is God. Glory belongs to him alone, not any work of his hands, no creation, but the Creator. If they had any doubt left, now they will know. But will they yield? That is the question. We have seen God work time and time again in lives and we know He is the LORD - Almighty Eternal One - Creator of heaven and earth, things visible and invisible. But will we yield?

As we go through this world the Lord makes a way for us. Our feet need not get sullied with the world for He dries our path. The way is plain and lit by fire - and we must simply put one foot in front of the other in obedience. Now when the Lord said to be still, he did not mean be inactive. They needed to still their fears and anxious activity and just obey. The Lord does all the rest, but we do need to obey what He has said and walk in the path opened up before us. In 1 Cor 10 Paul says they are baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They die to themselves, by faith stepping into what looks like death and come up new creations placing their faith in Moses and in the Lord.

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided,²² and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.²³ The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea.²⁴ During the last watch of the night the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion.²⁵ He made the wheels of their chariots come off so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

3-6AM Egypt pursues into the sea, between the walls of water. Is the enemy ever unseen to the omnipresent God? He could have thrown them into confusion the first day Moses walked into Egypt. All this has been to show Israel and Egypt that there is a God - a God that is over all, a God who has a plan, a God who reveals himself to those willing to hear.

A heart would have to be pretty hard to go in between those walls of water after the people of God. If you dared fight against a power that could divide the ocean, what makes you think you have snowballs chance in hell? When God judges the wicked, the hard-hearted, those who refuse to yield, He is glorified because He is just!

As the last of them came up out of the sea floor, the wheels of the pursuing Egyptian chariots (the f-16s of that day) start falling off, keeping the army of Pharaoh from catching them. Finally they get the right idea, "the Lord is fighting for them" duh! They didn't realize that in the ten plagues? Too late now, here comes the water. Can you swim in 50 pounds of armor? The world can follow the path of the Children of God but without the blessing of God the results aren't the same. In fact they are disastrous. "This method worked for them lets try it." Remember the seven sons of Sceva?

I'm reading Moody's biography in which there were people who tried to imitate him because he gained so much respect and influence. Moody's power to touch lives was the Spirit of God, not a method. His life surrendered to God and his heart after God are not methods. You can do things great men of God do but without a surrendered obedient heart that has forsaken the world, a heart fully after God, and the results will be futile. The wheels will fall off your chariot and the water will come in over your head.

²⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen."²⁷ Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the LORD swept them into the sea.²⁸ The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen--the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.²⁹ But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.³⁰ That day the LORD saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore.³¹ And when the Israelites saw the great power the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

Pharaoh and his army are drowned. All that power and might of man comes to naught. Everything that you were so afraid of, that threatened you, that made you question why you chose this life of faith in the first place – gone. Moses is a type and shadow of Christ. Today we trust no man but Christ alone who has become our Great High Priest, our Intercessor, our Lord. There are servants of God, equal parts of the body. Moses is an OT prophet that was a go between - a mediator. Jesus stands in that place more capable than any other man, for He was tempted in every way we are and yet without sin. You can trust Him and Him alone. Time to rejoice.

Their first experience in this new life of faith has seen a great victory. Straight from here to the Promised Land, right? You wish! But God knows better. He got you out of Egypt but He hasn't gotten Egypt out of you. Many more lessons and warnings to follow. But this is a great first step. It is worth taking time to stop and sing. And as you do, think of your first big step of faith. Maybe it was telling your family you were born again. Maybe it was saying goodbye to friends that kept pulling you toward the world. Maybe it was stepping out in your gift by faith and doing what you knew was more than you, obeying the voice of the Spirit. God helped you and what you feared is gone. He helped you to leave Egypt behind. Celebrate.