

Moses | Part 4 | Pastor Steve Wells | 02.01.2020
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Memory Verse: Exodus 14:13-14

" 13 But Moses told the people, "Don't be afraid. Just stand still and watch the Lord rescue you today. The Egyptians you see today will never be seen again. 14 The Lord himself will fight for you. Just stay calm."

Exodus Chapter 14 Crossing the Red Sea

God continues to harden Pharaoh's heart so that he would follow the Israelites. God did this to show His mighty power and bring glory to Him. This would lead God to destroy the army of Pharaoh and rescue the people of Israel from the hands of the Egyptians. Pharaoh did not want to let the people go and when he regretted sending them away-- he followed them to take them back. God fought for the Israelites--making it known that they were His chosen people and God was with them. Let's Go Deeper into Exodus 14 to learn more about this story and how it relates to us today.

Read Exodus 14

When God led His people away from the land of Egypt, He did not take them the way they would have thought. He took them an unexpected way. He did this to keep them safe physically and spiritually. This way, would protect their faith and keep them from becoming discouraged by things they would have encountered.

- Have you experienced God taking your life in a different direction than you would have chosen for yourself?
- What was God protecting you from?
- What lesson(s) did you learn from going the way God planned for you? Was there something He was able to show you this way, that you would not have been able to see otherwise?
- Has there been a time you wanted something (Job, Family, House, more) and you did not see how you were going to get that point on the path you were taking--but in the end, you ended up where you wanted to be or somewhere better?

God saved His people, and they were sent out of Egypt. Even though they were delivered, things were not immediately easy. They had to travel an unexpected path and then they turned to see the army of Pharaoh was coming after them. They were afraid and had doubts that they would be saved.

- Have you ever thought you were free from something (Illness, Relationship, Addiction, Unhealthy Lifestyle, Financial Trouble) only to turn and see it was still following you?
- The Israelites immediately were in fear and questioned their safety and questioned ever leaving--even after everything they saw God do. What was your immediate reaction to your own situation?
- Did you doubt God was still with you--were you afraid?
- Did you trust God or wonder what were you thinking? Did you wonder why did you even tried to leave?

God did NOT abandon His people. He was with them the whole time. He led them with the Pillars of Clouds and Fire. He used the pillars to block the army from His people. The People of Israel did not see a way out...but God had a way. He had Moses part the Red Sea. This allowed God's people to walk on dry land while GOD fought for them. God kept the army at a distance until HE was ready to finish the fight. If they had not went this way, they would not have learned this lesson or seen this miracle.

- How has God led you in the path HE wants you to take?
- Tell about a time you felt trapped and God saved you and rescued you--in an unexpected way.
- What lesson(s) did you learn from taking the path God had planned for you? Was there something He was able to show you this way, that you would not have been able to see or do?

Exodus 14:13-15 says " 13 But Moses told the people, "Don't be afraid. Just stand still and watch the Lord rescue you today. The Egyptians you see today will never be seen again. 14 The Lord himself will fight for you. Just stay calm." We all have had or will have to cross a "Red Sea" in our lifetime. It is important to remember that we need to do as Moses said and stay calm because God is on our side and with us. Sometimes, we need to stand still for a moment to hear clearly what God is telling us to do. For the Israelites, they needed to calm down for a moment and trust God to provide a way. He provided and then they needed to MOVE while He fought for them. He is fighting for us. Just like God was fighting for the Israelites in the parted sea while they were moving, He fights for us when we are moving. Faith isn't always sitting and waiting for God to do everything on His own; often He requires us to move as well. Faith in these "Red Sea" moments is knowing who God is, acting accordingly and watch Him act accordingly.

Is there a "Red Sea" you are facing? A giant impossible obstacle in your way with your past or greatest fears approaching you? God fought for the Israelites--making it known that they were His chosen people and God was with them. It is in these "Red Sea" moments, when you give control to God and put your trust in Him--that He fights for you. He can overcome anything. He makes the impossible possible.

If comfortable, share with your group what your "Red Sea" is. Maybe you are wanting a house--past financial trouble, wanting a new relationship but a past relationship stands in the way, Successful/happiness in a career but a past or current employer stands in the way, or you are dealing with an Illness/Disease but fear of the unknown has you frozen and afraid. Give your "Red Sea" over to God today. As a small group, help each other with these situations and support one another.