

Series: *Exodus: Seeing God in the Journey*
Title: Taking the Obedient Road
Text: Exodus 14:1-15:21

If this event was happening today...

GOD WILL BE GLORIFIED

God stands against and above all gods and all perceived gods

- The place of the crossing

Ex. 14:2

“Tell the people of Israel to turn back and encamp in front of Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, in front of Baal-zephon; you shall encamp facing it, by the sea.”

Ex. 14:9

The Egyptians pursued them, all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and his horsemen and his army, and overtook them encamped at the sea, by Pi-hahiroth, in front of Baal-zephon.

- In front of Pi-hahiroth
 - *Pi* = House
 - *Hathor*
 - The ancient Egyptian deity of many realms: mother to Horus, god of the sky, and Ra, the sun god;
 - And goddess of beauty (including cosmetics), sensuality, music, dancing, and maternity.
 - She is often depicted wearing a headdress of cow horns with a sun disk between them, or as a cow or lioness.
 - Although in time she came to be considered the ultimate personification of kindness and love, she was initially literally a blood-thirsty deity unleashed on mankind to punish humans for their sins.
 - There was a tower or monument denoting this place as sacred to this god standing there before the Israelites.
- In front of Baal-zephon
 - *Baal* = Canaanite and regional God
 - *Zephon* - The worship of Baal was known throughout the Fertile Crescent, the Levant, and down into Egypt. Upon this mountain, Baal Zephon, it was believed that Zephon reigned in power and was lord over the sea.
 - Again, there was a tower or monument denoting this place as sacred to this god standing there before the Israelites.
 - They actually were placed between these two gods:
 - of Egypt – the land they were leaving and Canaan - the land they were going toward.
- He will not share His glory with any other.
- He will share his love, kindness, judgement, or salvation with anything.

We must see that our salvation comes from the Lord alone

- The gods in our lives
 - Self, family, career, achievements, accumulations, ideologies

Ex. 14:13-14

¹³ And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. ¹⁴ The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent."

A TIME TO PRAY AND A TIME TO DO

Calling on God

Ex. 14:10, 15

¹⁰ And the people of Israel cried out to the Lord.

¹⁵ The Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward."

- They were calling on God
- They were praying
 - Praying out of fear, frustration, and doubt
- We can understand their feelings here. And we might even give them a thumbs-up for the act of praying in this moment.
- God does not see it as the thing to do.
- This was not a time to pray.
- God had already told them what to do.
- This was a time of obedience and trust.

How many times do we cry out to God for help and He is saying, "Why do you cry out to me... Move forward!"
Do What I have told you to do!

- Marriage
- Anger
- Temptation
- Identity

Complaining to Man

Ex 14:11

They said to Moses, "Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt?"

- I'm dying here!
- Life is over.
- They are praying to God and complaining to men.
- There is ZERO faith in either of these things.

How often we find ourselves praying for help when we are not doing what God has already said to do?

And at the same time our words to others reveal our spirit of disobedience to the very thing God has said to do.

We pray for our marriage and our spouse – yet we are not esteeming them higher.

- We are not submitting ourselves to them.
- We are not being kind.
- And we tell everyone else the horrors of the other person.
 - Your ears hear your mouth countering everything God has said not to do.

We pray for our kids.

- Yet we have not set the example for them.
- We have not taught them the truths and principles of the Scripture.
- We have exacerbated them as Paul in Ephesians tells fathers not to do.
- We have not disciplined them in the way of the Lord.
- And we complain to others.
 - Our ears hear our mouth spew out the very opposite of what we are praying for.

CHOOSE TO GO FORWARD IN OBEDIENCE AND TRUST

The children of Israel could have defied God and turned back.

To have done so would have meant a return to an even more grievous bondage.

1 John 3:19

They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.

John 6:66

After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.

Luke 9:62

Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

- Not fit for the kingdom of God

The children of Israel could have defied God and turned aside.

To have done so would have assured their utter destruction at the hand of Pharaoh’s approaching army.

Deuteronomy 5:32-33

³² *You shall be careful therefore to do as the Lord your God has commanded you. You shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.* ³³ *You shall walk in all the way that the Lord your God has commanded you, that you may live, and that it may go well with you, and that you may live long in the land that you shall possess.*

- Do what he has commanded you.
- Do not turn aside.
- It will go well with you.

The children of Israel could have defied God and stood still.

Look again at the verse that states how Moses approached it.

The great faith of Moses is clearly shown in verse 13:

Ex. 14:13-14

¹³ And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. ¹⁴ The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent."

- Moses was only half right.
 - Salvation will come from the Lord.
 - The Lord will fight the battle.
 - He encourages them.
 - Trust in God.
 - But what he doesn't do is tell them to get going! Be obedient!
- But he was also wrong:
 - He said to stand firm, or still
 - He said to be quiet.
- Moses firmly believed that God would deliver Israel by His power and that Israel should stand in place before the waters of the Red Sea.
- But in Exodus 14:15, God rebukes Moses quite sternly, saying, "Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward."

To have stood still at that time would have meant certain death for the children of Israel. Now there are times when Christians should stand still.

Consider...

Psalm 46:10

"Be still, and know that I am God."

- The time to stand still is when we are awaiting the command of God but once that command is given to us, we are simply to obey.
- The child of God dare not stand still when God has given the command to **"Go forward!"**
- This is not an excuse for disobedience!
- This is not God's will when He has already spoken His word.

The children of Israel could have obeyed God and gone forward.

This is what they wisely chose to do. For when we obey Him, He assures us that He will go before us.

Deuteronomy 31:8

It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.

WATCH FOR THE HAND OF GOD IN YOUR SITUATIONS

God is in your midst

Ex. 14:19-20

¹⁹ Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, ²⁰ coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night.

- At times He is guiding you.
- At times He is protecting you.
- He moves to and fro, placing a hedge around you.

They cross all night – ON DRY LAND

- Through the day and through the night they walked in obedience and the Lord held the waters to their right and to their left.
 - The Lord opened the way before them.
 - The Lord protected their rear from the enemy.
- Dry land – firm land...not bogged down, not stuck in the mire of the struggle.
 - Put moving forward in God's plan and path

God is with you...trust him and Move forward in His truth.

God is revealed to those who are against you

- **They fled in panic**

Ex. 14:25

The Egyptians are in a panic and they say: "Let us flee from before Israel, for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians."

- People will see that the Lord shines favor upon you.
- **Their devices are destroyed**
 - Egyptian army is destroyed.

Ex. 14:28-29

²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained. ²⁹ But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

- The waters covered them
- No one survived

Ephesians 6:12

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

2 Cor. 10:4-6

⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. ⁵ We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, ⁶ being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.

We wrestle not with flesh

WHEN WE SEE THE HAND OF GOD WE MUST SING OF THE WORKS OF GOD

Look for the hand of God and see it

Ex. 14:30, 31

³⁰ Thus the Lord saved Israel that day... ³¹ Israel saw the great power that the Lord used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the Lord, and they believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

- You look at the situation.
- You look at the sorrow.
- You look at the struggle.
- But you must look to the Lord.

When you see the hand of God sing of it

Ex. 15:1-2

¹ Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord, saying, "I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea. ² The Lord is my strength and my song and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.

- Sing of His triumphs.
- Sing of His strength.
- Sing praise to Him and of Him.

Ex. 15:11

Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?

- No one is comparable.
- He is holy.
- He is awesome.
- He is glorious.

Ex. 15:13

You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed; you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode.

- We sing of His love.
- We sing of being redeemed.
- We sing of His guidance.
- We sing of His strength.

Ex. 15:17-18

¹⁷ You will bring them in and plant them on your own mountain, the place, O Lord, which you have made for your abode, the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have established. ¹⁸ The Lord will reign forever and ever."

- We sing of His promise.
- We sing of His provision.
- We sing of His position.

This is not a head banging dirge of the sorrows of life.

This is not the blues.

This is singing the praises of the GOOD NEWS of who He is and what He has done.

- My strength
- My song
- My salvation

CHALLENGE

- Stop praying about things the Scripture has already given guidance on. START being obedient.
- Stop focusing on the struggles and sorrows. START seeing the Hand of God.
- Stop Complaining about the road you're on. START singing praise to God.