

Exodus 14

New King James Version

The Red Sea Crossing

14 Now the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 2 “Speak to the children of Israel, that they turn and camp before Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, opposite Baal Zephon; you shall camp before it by the sea. 3 For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, ‘They are bewildered by the land; the wilderness has closed them in.’ 4 Then I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, so that he will pursue them; and I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, that the Egyptians may know that I am the Lord.” And they did so.

5 Now it was told the king of Egypt that the people had fled, and the heart of Pharaoh and his servants was turned against the people; and they said, “Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?” 6 So he [a]made ready his chariot and took his people with him. 7 Also, he took six hundred choice chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt with captains over every one of them. 8 And the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the children of Israel; and the children of Israel went out with boldness. 9 So the Egyptians pursued them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, and overtook them camping by the sea beside Pi Hahiroth, before Baal Zephon.

10 And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. So they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the Lord. 11 Then they said to Moses, “Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? 12 Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, ‘Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness.”

13 And Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. 14 The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.”

15 And the Lord said to Moses, “Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward. 16 But lift up

your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea. 17 And I indeed will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them. So I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, his chariots, and his horsemen. 18 Then the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained honor for Myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.”

19 And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them.

20 So it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. Thus it was a cloud and darkness to the one, and it gave light by night to the other, so that the one did not come near the other all that night.

21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. 22 So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. 23 And the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh’s horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.

24 Now it came to pass, in the morning watch, that the Lord looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud, and He troubled the army of the Egyptians. 25 And He took off their chariot wheels, so that they drove them with difficulty; and the Egyptians said, “Let us flee from the face of Israel, for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians.”

26 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen.” 27 And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and when the morning appeared, the sea returned to its full depth, while the Egyptians were fleeing into it. So the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. 28 Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them. Not so much as one of them remained. 29 But the children of Israel had walked on dry land in the midst of the sea, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

30 So the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the

seashore. 31 Thus Israel saw the great work which the Lord had done in Egypt; so the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord and His servant Moses.

Matthew 2

New King James Version

The Flight into Egypt

13 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."

14 When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, 15 and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son."

How do we know when God is Rescuing us??

My title for this sermon might seem rather strange. Wouldn't we always know that God has rescued us from calamity?

Certainly, in our 1st reading today the Israelites **HAD** to know that God was rescuing them when he parted the waters.

Actually, though, ... they doubted.

They saw the vast army of the Pharaoh; his soldiers and chariots arrayed across the lands behind them. Their armor is shimmering in the sunlight. Reflecting NOT just the light, but the beating hearts of fear within the Israelites.

They refugee's let Moses know that they blamed not only God, but Moses as well for the catastrophe that clearly awaited. Telling Moses:

"Because there were no graves in Egypt, ... have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, ... to bring us up out of Egypt?"

Is this not the word that we warned you of in Egypt(?), ... saying, 'Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'?

For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness."

Obviously for many, if not for most of the Israelites, their faith was still the seed planted on rocky soil.

Moses's rebuke here is honestly the catch in this story:

And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more, forever. 14 The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace."

There is no indication here that Moses knew what God had planned, instead, Moses responds from his **FAITH** in God's plan, rather than his knowledge.

Reading the entire chapter of this reading, makes it very clear that God had planned what would occur here, ... even the appearance of Pharaoh with his great army.

God had a purpose in the design of this plan; he was going to show what faith, in this case; Moses's faith could accomplish.

God adds a very clear touch to this that we should note:

It is Moses, who is the one who has shown his faith, ... the one who rebuked, those who doubted God, ... that stands and raises his rod and his hands (at God's direction) and parts the sea.

The Israelites cannot, **not, notice** this as well.

You should also notice to what detail, God's plan here is; God not only parts the water, he also sends forth an angel to camouflage the Israelites from the Egyptians.

The angel creates a dark cloud behind the Israelites, which is impenetrable for the Egyptians to see through, or move through. The Egyptians are in total darkness.

Meanwhile, the Israelites can see the light in front of them and keep moving more into this light and out from the walls of water.

Now Moses listens as God directs him to release the waters and destroy the army of Egypt and the Pharaohs.

Again, Moses's faith leads him to follow God's command, and watches as the Egyptians are drowned.

This is one of the most thrilling stories of the Bible, as we read God emphatically and directly entering into the lives of the Israelites, and saving them.

Unfortunately, there is more to this history, as we know. In a short time, many Israelites will prove to not have enduring faith in God.

Three months later, Moses and the tribes arrived at Mount Sinai. While Moses is on the mount receiving God's commandments and the laws, God warns Moses, that the people of Israel have forgotten God, and have created other gods to whom they are celebrating and making offerings.

Ninety days after God had parted the sea, and saved the Israelites from Pharaoh and his army, the Israelites were replacing God with a "Golden Calf". God had fed them, provided water in the desert, and defeated the Amalekites. Yet they were ready to build an idol and worship it instead of the Lord.

Can we see this in our world today? Humans forget, ignore, or don't bother to notice, when God intervenes in our lives?

Buried in this question is the point I made in naming this sermon; do we always recognize when God is saving us?

Our inward desires aren't likely aligned with what God's plan and will are. Our desires might bluntly be so earthly in origin that we fail to see the importance of what **is** occurring.

An excellent example of this is the Jewish Sanhedrin's response to Jesus. The Sanhedrin was waiting for a Messiah that would restore the Abrahamic Covenant as **"they comprehended it"**. They seemed to entirely ignore the **New Covenant** that God had given Jeremiah:

"Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand, to lead them out of the land of Egypt, ... this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord:

I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his

brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

The Sanhedrin allowed their desires to be confused with God's will. He had created a new covenant centuries before, and they ignored it coming to fruition in Christ.

In today's Christian world, circumstances are often treated as divine signposts. When things go well, we assume God is pleased.

When things fall apart, we conclude God has withdrawn His favor. But is this how the Bible truly teaches us to discern God's will?

The truth is both comforting and challenging: Circumstances alone do not always indicate God's will. ***God does use circumstances—but never in isolation from His Word, His Spirit, and His eternal purpose.***

Human beings are naturally drawn to what is visible and immediate. Circumstances feel tangible. They speak loudly. Pain shouts. Ease whispers comfort.

However, Scripture warns us that what is seen is not always what is true.

***"For we walk by faith, not by sight."* 2 Corinthians 5:7**

If sight alone determined God's will, faith would be unnecessary.

Any circumstance that contradicts Scripture cannot be God's will—no matter how convincing it appears.

God will never guide you through circumstances into sin or moral shortcuts.

Hardship does not mean God's absence. Delay does not mean divine denial.

If circumstances alone revealed God's will, the crucifixion would appear as defeat. The cross was not a tragic accident. It was the center of God's redemptive plan.

Painful circumstances can carry eternal purposes. God is sovereign and can use them as confirmations, corrections, or constraints.

If you let circumstances lead you, your obedience will fluctuate.

When it's easy → you obey

When it's hard → you retreat

But God calls for steadfast faith.

Not every open door is opened by God.

God's will unfolds slowly, and Scripture reveals different types of patience in the Bible, that help believers endure seasons of delay and testing.

As believers, we mature spiritually, we may begin to recognize signs of God's presence that go deeper than outward circumstances and emotional impulses.

Circumstances and God's might occasionally align, sometimes they may align beautifully.

Provision **may** come at the right time and help what appears unexpected; events **can** confirm the value of obedience.

But even then, the believer should remain grounded in faith, not comfort. Faith requires endurance, and the power of patience is needed; perhaps most especially, when evidence of God seems absent.

Faith, in fact, often looks like obedience without evidence.

Faith trusts God's voice above visible reality. Even when circumstances scream confusion, God's will remains sure.

Circumstances are messengers, not masters. They speak—but they never lead.

Let the Word anchor you. Let the Spirit guide you.

Let circumstances fall into their proper place.

When you walk with God this way, you will no longer panic at closed doors or rush through open ones. You will move with discernment, humility, and faith. And even when the road is hard, you will know: God is still with you. God is still faithful. God's will is still unfolding.

Let us pray:

Dear Lord,

Guide my mind in moments of fear, lead me to be patient and faithful. Let me follow David's Psalm:

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me to lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside the still waters.

He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;

For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil;

My cup runs over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.

Amen.