**Exodus IV God Sets His People Free**

As we begin our sermon today, the Passover has occurred, Pharaoh has relented, the Jews have up and left quickly with their unleavened dough, and have “plundered the Egyptians.”

Moses/Jesus has demanded of Pharaoh/Satan to “Let my people go!”

God’s mighty arm has moved. They are being freed from slavery, not because of Pharaoh’s mercy, not because of Moses’ great oratorical skill, but for one reason and one reason only. Because of God’s mighty hand.

We will only get out of Egypt by God’s mercy and by his power, not because of our wonderful faith and repentance.

It is by grace we are saved, through faith, not from ourselves. It is the gift of God. Not by works, so that no one can boast.

Can we get an amen on that!

And how is that grace brought about—the grace sufficient to free them from slavery? The answer is right there in Exodus as a foreshadow.

It was from the sacrifice of a perfect, unblemished Passover Lamb, whose blood was shed on the wooden beam above their doors.

We are saved by the blood of the Passover Lamb.

It is amazing. The saving death of Jesus is prefigured in Exodus.

And Jesus is prefigured in Moses:

In his being saved from a jealous king as a baby.

In his leaving the side of the king to go and save his people.

In his going out into the wilderness for 40 years to prepare for his ministry.

So, is Moses Jesus or is the Passover Lamb Jesus.

Answer: YES! Who would have thought of this.

But….

There is a problem. They have headed out into the desert, but they are still in Egypt. Literally!!! Today, our salvation is foreshadowed in the actual Exodus.

Exodus 13:17-22

Exodus 13:17 They have been set free, but they are not yet fully ready to enter the Promised Land. They need to learn what it means to rely on me, not on self.

Exodus 13:19 Joseph is finally being called out of Egypt! (Hosea 11:1 Out of Egypt I called my son).

Exodus 13:21-22 God is doing the leading, not Moses!!!

Exodus 14:1-9

v. 1-2 They come to the Red Sea. Hebrew: Reed Sea.

There is some debate about the location—one of the two fingers of the Red Sea. The Gulf of Suez or the Gulf of Aquaba. Because Mt. Sinai is in the Sinai Desert, tradition favored Suez, but the evidence more strongly supports Aquaba, as this is where Midian is. But… Not important.

Pharaoh changes his mind. This, too, is the Providence of God.

Exodus 14:9 It looks really bad for God’s people. 600 chief chariots, plus a lot more!!!

It looked bad for you and for me as well. We were addicted, we were arrogant, we were greedy… We were deeply enslaved to sin.

But God wants them and us to learn to rely on Him, not on our awesome planning ability.

Exodus 14:10-12 The people (Us!!!) definitely are NOT passing this test yet!!! Moses! You are a terrible leader!!! Stop relying on God so much, and rely on your brilliant planning ability instead.

Remember Hosea 11:2 Even as they are leaving Egypt, they are already looking back to Egypt!!! I hope this is not you!

Exodus 14:13-18 Moses, for one, has finally learned to trust in God, not in self! Moses has become God’s hero.

Suggested memory verse: Exodus 14:14 “The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.”

Reminds us of Psalm 46:10 Be still, and know that I am God.

Q: Do you struggle with being “still”? Do you feel like you always have to keep working?

When things get crazy—when struggles come—what is your natural inclination? To worry, to lose sleep? To say “Oh no!!!”?

Or is your inclination to be still and let God do the principle fighting for you?

That is what Moses/Jesus is saying to you this morning!

v. 15 move on.

Ironic: We need to “be still” and we need, simultaneously “move on”

Be still in our hearts, but move on in our actions.

v. 18 Then our ungodly friends, who have opposed our giving our life to God, will know that I AM the Lord, when your life changes so dramatically.

Exodus 14:19-31 God reveals his glory to Moses and to Israel.

v. 19-20 God wants to lead us in the Desert wanderings. God wants to lead us in our life as disciple—to show us the way by the Holy Spirit. This was the normal relationship between the pillar of fire and the column of smoke—the Presence of God—and his people.

But… When Pharoah goes after God’s people, he moves to intervene between God’s people and their enemies.

God still does this today. He both leads us, as we “keep in step with the Holy Spirit” and he stands between us and those who would destroy our faith.

v. 21-22 By God’s mighty hand, Israel passes through the water.

How high was that wall of water. This is no natural event!!!

Were they feeling more a sense of wonder, or a sense of dread?

Wow!!!

v. 23-25 Satan is not letting us go so easily.

v. 26-28 It is like their sins are washed away in the water.

Now, the people have truly left Egypt.

We have many friends like this, figuratively.

They have “prayed Jesus into their hearts” Or they have “accepted Jesus.”

Praise God.

But, you do not get out of Egypt, until you pass through the water.

Literally, in this case.

And literally in our case as well.

1 Cor 10:1 They were baptized into Moses.

Remember the day of your baptism?

v. 30 “That day the Lord saved you from the hands of the Egyptians.”

Dec. 13, 1978: The day God save me from slavery to my sins.

Exodus 14:31 The people finally believe (sort of).

This is a momentous day in the history of God’s people.

The people finally believe!

Exodus 15:1-18 The Song of Moses.

v. 1 Our sin has been washed away in the waters of baptism.

v. 2 God has become my Savior. Praise God!

v. 5 The deep waters have covered the sins that had clung so closely to me.

v. 9 John 10:10 The thief (Satan) comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come to set you free from bondage to Satan—that you may have life, and have it to the full.

v. 11 Awesome, majestic

v. 17 You will lead us through the Wilderness of this life, finally taking us into the Promised Land.

Exodus 15:20-21 Miriam, Moses’ sister, the prophetess. Both Aaron and Mirian were spokespersons for God. Interesting.

A timbrel is similar to a tambourine.

Praising God for our salvation—that God has hurled our sins into the sea!

Remember our outline:

Exodus 1-17 God sets his people free.

Exodus 18-40 God gives his people a covenant and a Law. We are almost there. Next week!

But… We have a little wilderness-wandering on the way. And in the meantime, God is going to make provision for his disciples as they prepare for time in the Wilderness/for their life as disciples.

He is going to give them bread/his Word.

And he is going to give them water/The Holy Spirit.

Exodus 15:24 The people grumble at Marah. A pattern! We will skip this episode.

Exodus 16 Manna

Ex 16:1-5 The people grumbled, and, amazingly, God blessed them with manna anyway!!!

Ex 16:16-20 v. 18 God gave them exactly what they needed and no more.

v. But some did not trust God and gathered more than they need, and the extra was full of maggots and smelled horrible.

Might this apply to us trying to gather more money and stuff than we need to meet our basic needs? Maybe! Do you really need that top-of-the- line game board, that super fancy vacation, that vacation home?

Ex 16:33 Save a jar of manna for future generations (It ended up in the ark)

John 6 I am the bread of life. But also Deuteronomy 8:3 He humbled you in the wilderness. Forcing you to rely on Him, not self. To teach you what?

Memory verse #2 “Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of YHWH.

Exodus 17 Water.

Exodus 17:1-7 Rephidim/Massah.

v. 2-3 They quarreled with Moses. Clearly the extent of their/our trusting in God was limited!!!

God! Give me a spouse and give him/her to me now!!!

God! Give me a job/apartment/health right now!

v. 6 Moses strikes the rock and, miraculously, water comes out. Despite their rebellion against God’s leader.

This reminds me of John 7:37-38

“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink.” What is that spiritual water we are to drink from?
v. 38 “Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water

Conclusion:

It is only by God’s mighty hand that you can be freed from slavery to sin.

And it is only by God’s mighty hand that you can pass through the waters of baptism, enabling you to enter into the life of a disciple, as you wander in the Wilderness.

While you are in the wilderness, God is teaching you to rely on him, not on self.

So, what should you do?
Eat the bread/the Word of God and

Drink the water—the Holy Spirit.