

Friday, March 9, 2018

Hot with anger

Exodus 11-12

"All these officials of yours will come to me, bowing down before me and saying, 'Go, you and all the people who follow you!' After that I will leave." Then Moses, hot with anger, left Pharaoh.

Exodus 11:8

Moses is very angry. Untold numbers of people and livestock are going to die because of the arrogance and hard-heartedness of one man. This is a needless slaughter. Moses understood what it meant to be in awe of God. He is learning it more each day. While God will reveal His glory through what is happening, that does not make Pharaoh any less culpable. He is the one who made the decision for these people to die. Moses was quite hot with anger. He went and shared the beauty of the Passover for God's chosen people. To this day, the observation of the Passover reminds everyone (who cares to know) of the power of God and His keeping of His promise to His people for His purpose. It looked forward to the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world. The plagues were by God's design and necessary for Him to show His power and sovereignty. God had been showing His power to Pharaoh and yet he refused to repent. Moses was hot with anger that the pride of one man would bring the death of so many. Do I get hot with righteous anger at the needless deaths of so many who have never heard the truth of the gospel?

Dear LORD, please give me a heart that knows You so well that I burn with righteous anger at the fact that so many people will never know You or Your truth. Use me to proclaim! Amen.

Saturday, March 10, 2018

Be still

Exodus 13-14

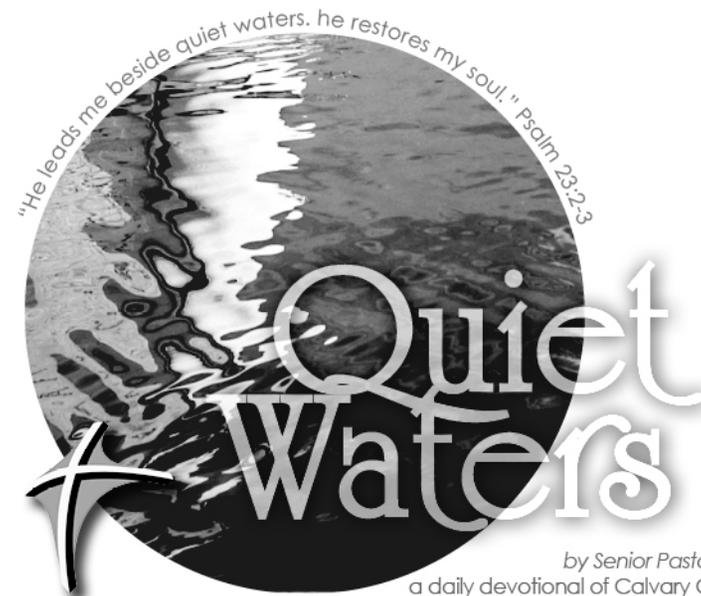
The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.

Exodus 14:14

I'm not so sure I could have been still. Really. When I think about it? An exposed group of men, women, children, and animals. All who had spent the last 430 years in captivity, now being set free, only to feel trapped. They had followed the LORD into a trap. All they could think about was that they were going to die. Nothing had changed. Die here—die in Egypt. What's the difference? I get it. I can imagine I would feel the same. I wonder how many times I have! In my anxiousness and hopelessness, I fail to see that God is bigger. It could very well be that the apparent tragedy that has come into my life is really Him allowing a place for His glory to be seen—if I can be still. If I can stop fixating and ruminating and allowing my circumstance to overwhelm my thoughts, I can sit quietly and watch Him work. "Why are you crying out?" God asks Moses. Just walk through the sea! I can imagine Moses thinking to himself, "Of course! So foolish of me to have missed that." God was teaching His people that He is all powerful and His mighty hand will accomplish what He has determined. In teaching them, He is teaching me. I can focus quietly on Him instead of noisily on my struggle.

Dear Lord, help me be still before You and allow You to go ahead of me so that You can show Your glory. Use my situation—whatever and whenever You need—to show Your power to all who care to see. Amen.

March 5 - 10, 2018



by Senior Pastor Chuck Cervenka
a daily devotional of Calvary Community Church

Monday, March 5, 2018

What if?

Exodus 3-4

"Moses answered, 'What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The LORD did not appear to you?'"

Exodus 4:1

What if I just stay here and argue with God all day? It can seem to the reader that Moses argues every step of the way. He seems to be examining every possible path for a way out. He converses so much that God's anger burns against him (4:14). I try to imagine this conversation. I try to imagine who exactly Moses was at this point in time. He was a miracle baby who lived a confused childhood. More than likely, he was taught both the Hebrew and the Egyptian faiths. He is forced to leave both behind and start a new life. If he is like me, I am sure the past was always in his mind. Now, God speaks to him from a burning bush. Apparently, this conversation is not made with indistinguishable thoughts. It is a coherent conversation. God speaks and Moses is expected to obey. Instead, it seems he argues. But close consideration reveals that in the "arguing," he learns more about who God is. God reveals Himself and it is the beginning of what will be a deep relationship. What if? What if I asked God to reveal more and more of who He is to me so that I could know Him as fully as possible? Would I then be able to stand boldly and obediently in all that God has for me to do for Him, as Moses was? I pray it will.

Lord, what if I am asked questions about You that I cannot answer? Will You be there with me? Help me remember that where You send me, You will be with me. Amen.

Tuesday, March 6, 2018

Comfortable

Exodus 5-6

... and they said, "May the LORD look upon you and judge you! You have made us a stench to Pharaoh and his officials have put a sword in their hand to kill us."

Exodus 5:21

Why is the word for the day comfortable? Because of the irony in this verse. The foremen are accusing Moses and Aaron of making the Hebrews a stench to Pharaoh. Of course, they were a stench long before Moses ever got there. He had been killing them. But it was at a level they were comfortable with. They were used to their babies being killed. They were used to the level of slavery they were under and the abuse of their lives. It had become acceptable. Yes, they had groaned from their captivity, but it seems the groaning was not coming from a place of genuine understanding. God knew He needed to make it crystal clear that He had brought them out of a terrible slavery. When Pharaoh got more maniacal, and their situation worsened, they blamed it on God by blaming His representatives. They had lost their level of comfort and God was not fixing it the way they wanted. Time for the self-check. Me too. I see the ways that I get comfortable in my captivity to sin. When I get comfortable, I neglect my purpose. I allow myself to slip into complacency and convince myself that it does not impact my potential for God. When I get uncomfortable in my captivity, I wonder why God doesn't fix things the way I have designed. I need to get the right perspective.

Dear LORD, please let me see the ways that I have become comfortable in my captivity to sin. Give me the correct perspective that causes me to reject comfort in filth. Amen.

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

Know

Exodus 7-8

"And the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring the Israelites out of it."

Exodus 7:5

God is going to rescue the nation of Israel. He will be doing that for His own glory. He will rescue them miraculously, in keeping with His covenant. As He rescues them, it will be clear who He is and the Egyptians will know that He is the LORD. They have treated His people poorly and have not cared for them. There is a price to be paid. The Egyptians apparently did not know God. They knew about gods—they had many. But they did not know God. God was about to change that. It was time for the Israelites to come out of Egypt. Egypt would not let them go. God would change that as well. How is my story of deliverance one that God can use to make Himself known? Do I see how critical it is for me to be very careful to proclaim the power and might of God in rescuing me in such a way that He becomes known as LORD to all the people who do not know Him? I can't help but wonder if there weren't some Egyptians who turned their heart toward God when they came to see Him. God is sovereign and all powerful. He is to be feared. It is that fear that allows us to know Him. It is that fear that is the beginning of wisdom.

Dear LORD, remind me often of Your power—the power that set me free from the death-curse I was under because of my sin. Remind me and reveal it to others so that all may know You are LORD. Amen.

Thursday, March 8, 2018

Worship

Exodus 9-10

Pharaoh's officials said to him, "How long will this man be a snare to us? Let the people go, so that they may worship the LORD their God. Do you not yet realize that Egypt is ruined?"

Exodus 10:7

God has been making it clear through Moses and Aaron that He wants His people to go and worship Him. He has prescribed exactly where that worship is to take place and He will settle for nothing less. Moses understands this and in this verse, it is clear Pharaoh's officials do as well. God has made His point. He is to be worshiped as He has defined. Pharaoh refuses to see this, no matter what plagues and devastation come against the nation of Egypt. It is a power struggle. Pharaoh believes he is a god. It is a battle of the wills. Pharaoh does not yet realize he has lost. He forced people to worship him. Is it clear to those around me who I worship? Even though they may not believe, do they see the power of my God? Do they see the reason it is so important for Him to be worshiped? I must be very careful to reveal the God of my adoration and praise.

God, You are great and worthy of my worship. Help me worship You with reckless abandon each and every moment of my life, revealing that I worship You in spirit and in truth as You have allowed. Amen.