

SERMON NOTES

SERIES: Exodus: Set Free to Live Free

TITLE: Experiencing Exodus

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 14:1–31

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We are in a series on the Book of Exodus from the Old Testament. Why study this book? Exodus is the Old Testament story of the salvation of God's people that points forward to the great salvation that comes to us by faith in Jesus. Exodus helps us better understand what it means for God to *set us free* from our broken, messy lives so we can *live free* in loving, personal relationship with God.

As Jim said last week—one of our prayers as we study this book is that we would continually see God doing Exodus in our lives—that we would continually experience and witness his liberating love at work in our lives. And there's no more profound place in all the book of Exodus to see both those things than in Exodus 14.

Exodus 14 is the great climactic point of the book of Exodus. It's the event that is pictured on movie posters and even there on the top of your Sermon Note Page. The story of the great parting of the Red Sea and Israel passing through the Sea is where God ultimately delivers his people once and for all from their slavery in Egypt as the Egyptians are swallowed up by the sea.

What we need to see most is how the Exodus story has become our story. Especially as we read it through the lens of Jesus Christ who has taken up the Exodus story in his own life and death and resurrection. Jesus transformed what we read here in Exodus 14 and he expanded it and has even called us into it. God calls us to live out of the story of Exodus, not stories of enslavement or exile. He calls us to live into the Gospel Story with a God who rescues and restores his people.

The Exodus story is a defining moment in the life of the OT people of God. It's the great redemptive work of God by which they understood who they were and who God is. All through the rest of OT, we see poets and prophets looking back to this great event as a reminder that Yahweh is Israel's God and Israel is Yahweh's people. It's the story by which we see our salvation and understand our salvation because "Exodus salvation" is about God calling us out of one kind of life to another—it's a story of life-change—which is what OT *and* NT salvation is all about.

What do we need to know in order to continually see God doing Exodus in our lives—to continually see God’s salvation and liberating love at work in our lives?

1. Know that God has put you where you are. You can’t see God’s salvation unless you see that God has put you in a place where you have a front row seat to see it. You may not know exactly what He’s doing, but he’s always at work doing something for your good and his glory.
2. Know that waiting for God to work is very often the place from which you can see God’s salvation breaking into your life. The place of waiting is the front row seat from which you learn to trust God for things you don’t yet see. You can’t see God’s salvation if you don’t wait in faith, trusting God to do what he’s promised.
3. Know that God did not save you to abandon you. He is faithful even when our faith is shaky.

But how can we hold on to what we know when fear crashes in and we forget?

To continually see God doing Exodus in your life, you have to continually remind yourself of what you know to be true. (Psalm 77)

For the Jews, the Exodus defined their salvation in the same way the cross defines our salvation. Crossing the Red Sea was the defining moment for the Jews forever assuring them of God’s liberating love and commitment. The Cross forever stands as a monument of God’s liberating love and commitment to us regardless of our circumstances.

For Discussion:

1. When the odds are stacked against you, what makes it hard to believe that God puts you where you are?
2. Talk about a time when you were powerless to control what was happening to you and you had to wait on God to work. Describe how the waiting felt. What was the biggest obstacle standing in the way of your faith? How would you tell someone that “the place of waiting is very often a place where your faith grows?”
3. *God doesn’t deliver you just to desert you.* How can you and your group help one another hold on to that truth in your Exodus moment? How does the Gospel inform that statement?