

Finding Pathways

Exodus 14:10-16

Dr. Larry Parsley, Senior Pastor

October 2, 2016



¹⁰ As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the LORD. ¹¹ They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? ¹² Didn’t we say to you in Egypt, ‘Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians’? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!” ¹³ Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. ¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.” ¹⁵ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. ¹⁶ Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground.

notes

THREE WAYS THAT WE WHINE AGAINST GOD:

- 1. _____.
- 2. _____.
- 3. _____.

BIG IDEA:

God makes beautiful _____ through our biggest _____.

HOW CAN WE FIND GOD’S PATHWAY FOR US?

_____ your hearts and _____ for God’s hand.

my next step is to

- Reach out to Christ as My Savior.
- Commit to pray daily for God’s intervention and to watch for His hand.
- Ask a grow group leader, pastor, or friend to pray with you about an obstacle You face.



BUILD

- The “big idea” of Pastor Larry’s sermon this week was, “God makes beautiful pathways through our biggest problems.” What does this mean in your own words? How have you seen this to be true in your own life?
- In Sunday’s sermon, Larry talked about how the Israelites responded to their tough situation with cynicism (sarcasm and resentfulness), nostalgia (“Good old days syndrome”), and blindness (unable to see God’s goodness). Which of these three traps do you fall into most often when you face tough times? Why?
- In the last couple of sermons, we’ve watched the Israelites wander around in the desert, seemingly walking in circles. Have you ever had a similar experience, where you felt like you just were just spinning your wheels and not getting anywhere? What did God teach you in that situation? What was most helpful to you when you were in the middle of the trial? Looking back, what do you wish you would have done differently?

DIG

- Read Exodus 14:10-20. In verse 19, the angel of the Lord and the cloud that had been in front of the Israelites, guiding them on their journey, now moved to the back of the camp, between them and the Egyptian army. What does this say about what God does for his people?
- Read verse 20 again. What was the difference between the two sides of the cloud? What principles about God and his presence can we learn from this verse? What difference should this make in how we view our circumstances?
- In the remainder of Exodus 14, God made a way for the Israelites where there seemed to be no way. How did God provide for them? (check out Exodus 14:21-31) Has God ever provided for you in an unexpected way? Share it with the group.

- Read Exodus 14:31. What impact did seeing God's faithfulness in this situation have on the Israelites?
- Read Exodus 15:22-24. Right after this rescue...just as the sound of their praise song was fading away...the Israelites started to grumble again. Can you relate to this? What makes it hard for us to keep trusting, even when we've seen God be faithful in the past?

TRAIN

- Read Exodus 14:15-16. What does God tell Moses to do? Is there an area of your life where it's time for you to get up and take a step of faith? What is one step of faithfulness you could take this week?
- In the sermon, Larry quoted Desmond Tutu, during a time when his country was struggling with apartheid. When asked how he could be optimistic in such a tough situation, Tutu responded that he wasn't an optimist, but instead was "a prisoner of hope." How can you become more of a prisoner of hope this week? How can we encourage each other in our group to be prisoners of hope?
- How else is God speaking to you through the sermon and our conversation today?
- Share a way we can pray for you as you put today's conversation into practice this week.

DIGGING DEEPER:

- Read Matthew 14:22-33. What was Peter was focusing on when he was walking on water? What was he focusing on when he began to sink? What might God be saying to you in these words?
- Read Matthew 6:25-34. Reflect on the faithfulness of God. Pray that he would give you grace to trust him more.
- Read Lamentations 3:19-24. Each morning this week, thank God for his "new mercies."