



Sermon Notes from 21 July

Getting Out of Bondage (*Exodus 13:17 - 14:31*)

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Every one of us carry fears in our heart. These fears are overwhelming and puts us under immense stress. From the passage, we see that God has an answer to all these fears!

The people (Israelites) were out of Egypt, but the Egypt was still not out of them. God the Deliverer wants His people to get out of the underlying layers of bondage. The answer is found in God's grace! It leads you to break free from the bondage to your worst fears.

Where can God's grace be found?

1) In His Faithfulness

Ex 13:17-18 – In our minds, we simplistically equate the best with the shortest. God knows this to be wrong and seeks to not just stop His people from changing their minds, but also from changing their hearts. We learn from verse 17 that God knows us best and knows what's best for us. God is faithful in His leading. He is also faithful in keeping His promises (v19). If you are fearful, dwell on the truth that God is faithful! If He is able to connect things that are hundreds and thousands of years apart beautifully together, He surely can do the same for you!

2) In His Presence

God's presence is a huge theme in the book of Exodus. He goes beyond revealing Himself through Moses by gracing His people with His presence (Ex 13:21-22).

Isa 63:11-12 – There is a strong correlation between the Pillar of Cloud and Fire and the Holy Spirit – they represent God's presence in the midst of His people. For followers of Jesus Christ today, we don't just have God's presence among us; we have it in us (Jhn 14:17). This is the reassuring truth – God is with us; inside us; guiding us! Stop imagining life without God's presence and believe in His actual grace and presence in your life!

3) In His Fight

Ex 14:14 – God promises to fight for His people. Sometimes, certain changes in our circumstances can trigger great fears. A great fear had arisen in the hearts of the Israelites – the Egyptian army (v10). Positionally, even though they were out of bondage, there were other layers of bondage deep down. Whatever you fear, you will serve; our worst fears are slavish fears. God is sovereign and everything happens according to His plan (vv4,8,17-18). The real problem wasn't Pharaoh's army; it was the sin residing in the human heart. God's fight for His people is tied to His fight for His glory. You will truly experience God fighting for you when you stop fighting against Him. Identify with God's fight for you and His glory! Delight in having the passion for His glory running in your blood!

4) In His Mediator

Ex 14:21-22 – All that had happened to God's people was only possible because of a mediator – Moses. Whoever followed Moses was graciously spared; whoever did not, perished (vv26-29). This happened because of the God-given role Moses was playing as a mediator. He was a man in the middle – he so identified with the people of Israel, their guilt was his own (v15); he so identified with God, God's power was coming through him. Today, we have a mediator that is both fully man and God – Jesus Christ (1 Ti 2:5).

When you realise that the truly greatest fear of all mankind (being judged by God for our sins) has been taken away by Christ – your mediator, you will experience God's faithfulness, presence and fight for you! It will calm the stormy fears in your heart (Ex 14:13). You will fear not when you have come to fear God (v31). Do not give in to despair! Draw near to God by faith! He will free you from the layers of bondage!