

BUMC Weekly Bible and Sermon Study

Sermon: “The Deliverance” (from the “Deliverance” sermon series)

Scripture: Exodus 14:5-15 (The Egyptians pursue Israel)

Main idea: In this section of Exodus, we find Moses leading the Israelites out of Egypt.

Key take-aways from the Scripture

- God tells Moses to “Tell the Israelites to turn back and camp in front of Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, in front of Baal-zephon; you shall camp opposite it, by the sea.” These were Egyptian cities east of Rameses.
- In last week’s verses (12:29-42), we read how Pharaoh was anxious for the Israelites to leave Egypt after the final plague. Now, Pharaoh’s heart again hardens and changes his mind about letting the Israelites depart. He and his officials shift their concern from removing those that have brought the plagues upon them, to anger and regret over losing slave labor (verse 5).
- In vv. 6-9, Pharaoh has his chariot put together, as well as that of “...six hundred picked chariots and all the other chariots of Egypt with officers all over them” (verse 6). These chariots were manned by two people, one assigned to operate the vehicle and the other to engage and fight the enemy. As the Israelites were fleeing, they noticed this great onslaught from Egypt coming at them.
- In vv. 10-12 explain, “In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt?” The image of this Egyptian army coming at them created fear and dread, so much so that they shouted to Moses to leave them alone and let them just serve the Egyptians. “For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.”
- In vv. 13-15, Moses tells them to not be afraid, be still, keep the faith and know the LORD will fight for them! The LORD then says to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on.”

Key take-aways from the Sermon

- Pharoah makes a last-ditch effort to block the Israelites escape Egypt. Pharoah changes his mind/hardened his heart about wanting to remove them from Egypt when he realized the need for their labor to pursue his ambition.
- When they realize they are being pursued by Pharoah's army, they begin to panic (v. 10-12), cry out to God and blame Moses for being in this situation!
- They said to Moses something similar to "we told you so" and that it would be better to serve the Egyptians than die in the wilderness. (Crisis always brings out the "*I-told-you-so*"). Crisis always brings out the panic and "second-guessers".
- If you look closely at these complaints in these verses, they mention the Egyptians five times in three verses! They obsess over Egypt but never mention God! In other words, they cite the source of their fears but not the source of their faith.
- Objection to the idea of it being preferable to remain a slave in Egypt than have faith in God. Worse than physical death is a failure of nerve and courage. The failure to risk myself to obedience of God...it is a form of death. Go deep and not settle in the shallow end.
- Moses understands their concern and says in verse 13: "Don't be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today, you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you, you have only to keep still."
- We all face a "battle" in life...we can see the problem and not the solution and feel alone. As the Psalmist says, "Be still and know that I am God!" Ours is a God that parts water and makes a way where there appears to be no way!
- There is a power greater than any Pharoah, president, king or queen. When we are made in the image of God, redeemed by His blood, we are clothed in immense power and emboldened to love, serve, risk, reconcile and thrive!
- The Holy Communion meal is a recipe for deliverance. The Passover supper celebrates the freedom of Hebrew slaves from bondage, and when Jesus served this meal on Maundy Thursday it became something more than this. When we receive this, it becomes a reenactment of the life, death and resurrection of Christ (that has procured our liberation from slavery, to sin, to death).
- When we receive these gifts, we are clothed with power to serve our God and neighbor to the end, that the world may know that our God is in the delivery business.

Questions for Personal Reflection or Group Discussion

- What were your key take-aways from the sermon? How can you apply this to your everyday life?
- Why do you think that the Israelites' faith was so weak, given the many miracles they witnessed in the previous chapters?
- Do you experience similar doubt in your faith when circumstances appear overwhelming? What is the solution to this?
- Where in your life is God asking you to stand firm in your faith and trust in Him?



BRENTWOOD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.