

Stand Still & Go Forward pt 9

Pastor Cameron Brice | October 11th, 2020

- I. Last week Pastor shared with us that FORWARD is an acronym that we will be walking through over the next few weeks.
 - A. F is for Future.
 1. We talked about the children of Israel being in a dilemma, and that the definition of a dilemma is a situation in which difficult choices have to be made between two unseemly and unfavorable alternatives. We realized that in order to face a dilemma in a productive way we have to think rightly when confronting the decisions we must make. We have to remember what Jesus has said to us and we have to remember what the Father has said to us. We also have to realize that God has prepared our future and has already moved into our future. It is important to move forward knowing that even though God has gone before us it doesn't mean that we won't be attacked or face difficult times. But, we can be steadfast, immovable and abounding in the work of the Lord, because He always gives us the victory through Christ Jesus!
 2. This week we will jump right into "O" which stands for:
- II. Ordinary People
 - A. **"And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. So they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the Lord. Then they said to Moses, "Because *there were* no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? *Is this not* the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, 'Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For *it would have been* better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness." And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace." And the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward." - Exodus 14:10-15**

1. The two main players in this account, Moses and the Children of Israel, were ordinary people. There was nothing intrinsically different between the two.
 - a) Moses wasn't this wildly, qualified spiritual leader.
 - b) Actually, both were immigrants and both held meager rolls in society. Israel as enslaved day laborers, and Moses a lowly shepherd.
 - c) Increasing the oddity of God's call on Moses' life to be the leader of a nation was the fact that he was a horrible delegator and even a murderer.
 - d) Neither of these two significant, historical figures were overwhelmingly desirable in the eyes of society, and yet both were specifically called by God to profoundly affect history.

2. *We, like Moses and the Children of Israel, are all ordinary people, yet called by God to affect the world around us for His glory!*
 - a) Every one of us, with our imperfections, hang ups, insecurities, baggage, etc. have been chosen.
 - b) We are not all called to same vocation, but we are all called to the same purpose.
 - c) **“For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence. But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption— that, as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.” - 1 Corinthians 1:26-31**
 - d) Our lives, despite our shortcomings, are meant to point to the power and glory of God.
 - e) This leaves the question, “What keeps ordinary followers of Jesus from glorying in God and glorifying Him in the process?”

3. When we look again at the Children of Israel and Moses, we realize that they had the same calling, but what kept the Children of Israel from walking in that calling was how they responded to the dilemma they were facing.

a) **“And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. So they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the Lord. Then they said to Moses, “Because *there were* no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? *Is this not* the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, ‘Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For *it would have been* better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness.” - Exodus 14:10-12**

(1) The dilemma that they were facing in this moment was the seemingly impossible path to freedom in front of them, and the threat of returning to slavery behind them.

(2) *God had set them free, but when their past came to enslave them again, they doubted their current state of freedom.*

b) Despite all God had done to save them in Egypt they saw the return of the Egyptians as another thing to be saved from, **instead of continuing in the reality that they were already saved.**

(1) Even Moses, in his faith that God was going to work (Exodus 14:13), seemingly didn't realize that their salvation was already present. This battle against their past wasn't to be won, it was rigged.

(a) Thy way was in the sea, and thy paths in the great waters, and thy footsteps were not known. - Psalm 77:19 (ASV)

(b) This scripture tells us that the path through the Red Sea was ALREADY there.

(c) So, crossing over the sea isn't what would save or redeem them, look at this:

(2) “Was it not You who dried up the sea, the waters of the great deep; Who made the depths of the sea a pathway for the redeemed to cross over?” - Isaiah 51:10

(a) It wasn't that crossing over redeemed them, it was that they were redeemed, so they COULD cross over.

(b) The Red Sea was not the key to their freedom, it was proof of what was already true about them,.

c) This is what set the ordinary people of Israel and ordinary Moses apart: Israel wanted further proof of what was already true. Moses believed the extraordinary truth of what God had done, was doing, and would do for His people!

B. THIS is also what will set all of us apart.

1. We can daily face the same dilemma that Moses and the C.O.I. faced at the Red Sea.

a) We have been saved from our past, but the enemy constantly tries to convince us that we still aren't free.

(1) If the devil can't keep us from being saved, he will settle for keeping us trapped between our past and our process.

b) He wants us to think that if we are in process we aren't completely free, but:

(1) "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery." - Galatians 5:1

(2) We aren't trying to get the yoke off, we live in a state of refusing to put it back on.

(3) We are free from day one, but we are in a process of fully walking that freedom out.

(4) Active and Passive freedom ...

2. "Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace." - Romans 6:14

- a) We are no longer slaves to sin, but our past constantly tries to make us think that that isn't true.
 - b) He takes advantage of the fact that while God does erase our sin, he doesn't erase our story.
 - c) "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death." - Revelation 12:11**
- (1) The devil will use your story to make you think you still in bondage to your sin, while God wants to use your story to remind the devil he can no longer control you with sin.