

The Potter's Christian Life Center

SERMON NOTES
with Pastor Greg Formey



Stuck On The Way To A Good Place

Exodus 14:10-15

Sunday, February 9, 2020

Hear these powerfully encouraging words from the Prophet Moses as he began to lead a multitude of Israelite slaves on a journey toward freedom:

Exodus 14:13,14

¹³And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again.

¹⁴The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent." ESV

What would you think or feel if someone continued to ask you for what you had already promised to do for them? The reasonable answer is that it would be disappointing at best and irritating at worst.

Well, God was disappointed and irritated with the children of Israel as they made their way out of the clutches of Egyptian slavery.

When He was ready to move, He was ready for Israel to move. There was now no reasonable excuse, since He had shown Moses a number of miracles before and during his confrontation with Pharaoh, not to mention the ten miraculous plaques that left no doubt God was in charge.

THE PROBLEM OF BEING STUCK

The children of Israel have just been delivered from the strong, oppressive hand of Pharaoh. God with a mighty deliverance has brought them out of Egypt the land of slavery and oppression. They had started their journey with high hopes and expectations toward the land of promise.

But they have marched only a few days and suddenly they seem to be stopped in their journey. The Bible records they have encamped by the sea. Before them is the great Red Sea, on either side of them is a mountain and behind them are Pharaoh and his army closing in fast. On the surface it seems they are hopelessly trapped. For all practical purposes there was

no way out. But in the midst of chaos and confusion the people come to Moses and begin to cry out to him.

WHY WE GET STUCK

Exodus 14:15

"...Tell the people of Israel to go forward."

Notice the last two words of verse 15, when Moses went to the Lord and asked Him what He wanted him to tell the people, the Lord said, tell them "Go forward."

The word "forward" carries the idea of advancement and progress. It means to pull up, especially the tent pegs and start on a journey. You have been stuck here long enough. It is time to move on.

What is both interesting and puzzling about verse 15 is actually the first part of it; notice the surprising thing God says to Moses: **"The LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry to me?"**

Moses, it seems, was outwardly confident, but inwardly anxious. This is to be understood; the sea was against him; the Egyptian army was against him; and now his own people were crying out against his leadership.

Many of us are stationary when God wants us to be making progress. We are camped out at the edge of opportunity because of at least one of the following:

- Hurt Feelings
- Anger
- Bitterness
- Apathy
- Comfort
- Satisfaction

You cannot stay in those places camped out if you want to experience the glory and power of God in your life. If you stay in those places long enough the enemy will destroy you.