

# Shut Up And Move!



## Day 1

**Sermon Sentence:** Remember, you could not fix the past, so keep going and let God work out your future.

**Exodus 13:17-22**

**Exodus 14:1-4**

To recap, God has just struck with the 10th plague and all of Egypt's firstborns are dead. Israel was spared this curse by the Passover lamb and the applied blood of the sacrifice. Pharaoh, when he became aware of what happened having witnessed the death of his own son, no longer resists the Israelites departure but demands it to occur immediately! If you have ever played the game of "Mousetrap" you get the idea of what is happening in chapter fourteen. The Pharaoh is experiencing that moment when you think your opponent's mouse is in the trap and he decides to use his military to pursue them! The only problem is the Pharaoh is the one in God's trap and he doesn't even know it yet.

- Why did God deliberately take the Israelites on a less direct route when leaving Egypt?
- Do you think that God uses this tactic in our lives today? Why or why not? Why wouldn't God always use what we perceive as the most direct route to an end?
- What is the Pharaoh's perception of the route of the Israelites and what does this cause him to do?
- As with the plagues, God is continuing to use Pharaoh for a specific purpose. What is that purpose and why is it so important?

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## Day 2

**Sermon Sentence:** Remember, you could not fix the past, so keep going and let God work out your future.

### Exodus 14:5-9

The Israelites are camped with water on one side and wilderness on the other, so the Pharaoh makes his move. He gathers all of the army of Egypt to surround the Israelites hoping to use the Red Sea to block their flight. God has set the trap and Pharaoh's hubris is getting the better of him and is drawing him right into it!

An interesting fact, the place in which the Hebrew's camped during this part of the Exodus was across the sea from a place known as Baal-zephon. You probably noticed "Baal" in the name and yes this is the Canaanite storm god which literally translates as "the lord". God is constantly railing against this false god and in the future many of the Israelites will suffer the wrath of God for believing in this false god. In this instance "Baal-Zephon" was credited with the protection of maritime travelers! The Bible does not say specifically but it is interesting that the true God of the universe chose this spot and deliver the Israelites through the Red Sea considering the legend attributed to this false god.

- After the death of the firstborns you would think Pharaoh would have had enough of dealing with God. What are some of the influences you think that are affecting Pharaoh's actions at this point?
- Reading back through the plagues it is easy to see the areas of impact in the Egyptian society, what is the final strength being used here? What is so risky about what Pharaoh is doing?
- What do you think the Israelites are thinking at this point of the story? Would most feel they are doomed or still hold to the faith that God will deliver them?

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## Day 3

**Sermon Sentence:** Remember, you could not fix the past, so keep going and let God work out your future.

### Exodus 14:10-14

Stockholm syndrome is a psychological term used to describe when a captive actually starts to empathize with and prefer their captors to their freedom. We see the Israelites, having witnessed the advancing Egyptian army, complaining that they would have rather died a slave in Egypt than to be brought into the wilderness to die this way! This is a perfect picture of the fickle nature of the faith of man when tested and should serve as a strong reminder for us to always keep our eyes on God and His promises rather than succumb to the pressures of the world around us. Moses reminds them and tells them to watch as their deliverance continues!

- How do you relate to “stockholm syndrome”? Have you ever felt more comfortable in the safety of a routine no matter how restrictive than freedom?
- Do you feel that this is the primary fear that we experience when asked to step out in faith? If not, what is for you?
- What do you think about the faith of the Israelites given that the very manifestation of God is with them and guiding them? Would this be enough for you to hang on God’s every word?
- What is the action that Moses said is required of the Israelites? (Psalm 46:10)

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## Day 4

**Sermon Sentence:** Remember, you could not fix the past, so keep going and let God work out your future.

### Exodus 14:15-21

And now we come to the title of the sermon. God tells Moses to basically “shut up and move”, stop standing here asking questions and do what I tell you! This speaks to our needs as humans to always know the plan but faith tells us to act without always knowing the plan!

The movies have done an injustice to the the crossing of the Red Sea. The Bible makes it clear that this was an all night preparation not a quick parting and run across as often depicted. God moves between the Israelites and the Egyptians providing protection all night while the sea bed is drying.

- How often do we “shut up and move” when we are told or are we more like the Israelites and demand to know the plan?
- We expect our children to obey our instructions in the faith that we know what is best for them to protect them. If they are allowed to question our instructions it could cause a delay that might cause them harm when they are in danger. Why don't we look at God's instructions the same way?
- We see that it is God's intention to destroy the Egyptian army. As mentioned above this is probably the last resource of strength available to the Egyptians. Considering the Egyptian empire, why is destroying this so important to the future plans God has for His people in the land He will deliver them?
- What do you take away from the imagery of the Bible concerning the Red Sea crossing compared to the illustrations that you are most familiar with from other sources such as movies?

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## Day 5

**Sermon Sentence:** Remember, you could not fix the past, so keep going and let God work out your future.

### Exodus 14:22-31

Early in the morning (before sunrise) the Israelites start across the Red Sea. We have to assume that God at some point moves out of the way to allow the Egyptian army to pursue and that of course is all part of the plan to destroy them! Comparing the two groups understand that the Israelites are a group comprised of young and old, woman and children. This slower moving group would have been easily overtaken by an army of warriors on chariots but God slows the Egyptian advance basically confusing them and delaying them as the Israelites exit the Red Sea on the far side. Once the Israelites are clear of the Red Sea, God instructs Moses to raise his arms over the sea (at sunrise) and God closes the water in on the Egyptian army drowning them. We do not know if Pharaoh was included but most interpretations say no, that if he had it would have certainly be noted as with the death of other kings.

### Life Application:

- We can't let the fear of our future keep us focused on our past.
  - We can't let the fear of an impossible task keep us from moving forward.
  - God wants to deliver us, yet we are talking and not listening.
  - Don't let our fear hold us captive.
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- Have you ever allowed fear of the future keep you rooted in the past? Explain.
  - When we fear an impossible task we have to have faith in God to make a way. What methods would you use in this situation to overcome this fear and remain in faith?
  - How often do we allow the noise of the world or our own objections to silence God's voice to us? How do we learn to follow Psalm 41:10 and allow God to deliver us?
  - Overall how do we keep our fears under control? (Psalm 27:1 Psalm 118:6)