



“The Journey Of Trust”

Exodus 13:17-14

But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. That day the Lord saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the Lord displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant. Exodus 14:29-31

Getting on the Same Page

God led his people out of Egypt by miraculous plagues, dismantling the Egyptians and their gods. So the Israelites walked out of Egypt; out of bondage. And they lived happily ever after.

Hardly. The Israelites’ journey of trust was just getting started. Along this journey, God would reveal his power, then ask them to trust him.

Perspective becomes really important in this story. When the Israelites start their journey out of Egypt, God doesn’t lead them on the quickest route to the Promised Land. Instead, they take the long way. From the Israelites’ perspective, it doesn’t make sense. But the narrator tells us that God is leading them away from the Philistines; a powerful and harsh people that would make war with them.

Then God leads them to the Red Sea, which seems like a bad strategy. When the Israelites learn that the Egyptians are coming for them, and that following God's lead has trapped them between the Egyptian army and the sea, they are terrified and cry out to Moses. But God has great plans.

God miraculously parts the Red Sea, and the Israelites start walking. I'm sure they were dumbfounded, but they didn't have much choice. The narrator uses Genesis 1 language here, suggesting that God is not only parting the sea, he is re-creating a new people for himself.

Fast-forward thousands of years. Jesus, Israel's Messiah, is hanging on the cross. From the disciples' perspective, all hope seems lost. But we know that God was doing his greatest work on the cross, making a way for his sinful people to be saved from God's just judgment.

We are never going to have God's perspective. But we don't need it. We just need to trust that God loves us, is with us, is fighting for us, and is in control; that he has a perspective we don't.

Discussion Questions

Getting Started

- Read Exodus 13:17-14. What stands out to you in this passage?
- Discuss a time in your life when a change in perspective caused you to change your opinion about something that happened to you.

Study

- Respond: Every error in judgment we make and every sin we commit is because we don't trust God enough.
- God purposely puts us in difficult situations so he can reveal his glory and so we will learn to rely on him. Agree or disagree? Why do you believe that?
- Why is it good that God acts for the sake of his name, rather than in response to our merit?
- God didn't tell the Israelites to go anywhere that he himself wasn't willing to go. Why does this make it easier to trust him?
- Respond: We don't need to have God's perspective. We just need to trust that he has a perspective on our lives that we don't.
- Which of the following exhortations from Moses (God) speak to you most today? *"Do not be afraid. Stand firm. Be still."*
- Respond: Ultimately, we know we can trust God because of the cross. At the cross, the walls of water collapsed onto Jesus. He ultimately took the condemnation that we deserved.

Apply

- Discuss what it would look like for you to trust God more deeply; to actively trust that God has a perspective you don't.