

## **2021.02.14 Sunday Sermon <When We Don't Know What To Do>**

### **Psalm 57:1**

*Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in you I take refuge.  
I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed.*

### **Exodus 14:10-14**

<sup>10</sup> *As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the Lord.* <sup>11</sup> *They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt?"* <sup>12</sup> *Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians'? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!"*

<sup>13</sup> *Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again."* <sup>14</sup> *The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still."*

As you see the image on the screen, we come across a point where we do not know what to do. Israelites were going through the similar situation - behind them were the Egyptian soldiers and in front of them was the Red Sea. We too are living in a similar situation as the Israelites during this pandemic. Let us know more about what God told Israelites through Moses.

### **1. Do Not Fear**

When the Israelites did not know what to do, God said to Moses, "Do not be afraid."

#### **Exodus 14:13**

<sup>13</sup> *Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again."*

The fear Israelites had was bigger than the sea and soldiers. We can also see the same fear when Elisha trapped blinded Arameans in 2 Kings. In both situations, the Lord had the same message, "Do not be afraid."

#### **2 Kings 6:15-16**

<sup>15</sup> *When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?" the servant asked.*

<sup>16</sup> *"Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them."*

In one research, it showed patients who were alone more than 18 hours per day lead to higher death rate. Their time alone slowly lead to depression and to dementia. So when you feel like you are alone... do not fear and always remember that God is by your side.

#### **Deuteronomy 31:8**

<sup>8</sup> *The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."*

#### **Isaiah 41:10**

<sup>10</sup> *So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.  
I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

When our loved ones leave or when we are faced with difficulties from pandemic, we may feel alone but know that the Lord is beside you so do not be afraid.

### **2. Be Still**

In today's scripture, the Lord tells the Israelites to "be still"... which also meant for to be careful with words.

**Exodus 14:13**

<sup>13</sup> *Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again."*

**Exodus 14:14**

<sup>4</sup> *The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still."*

Especially when we are faced with fears, we tend to use negative, resentful, and agitating words. Thus, the Lord is telling us to be still.

**Exodus 14:11**

<sup>11</sup> *They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt?"*

**Exodus 14:12**

<sup>12</sup> *Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians'? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!"*

In one research by Carnegie Mellon, they asked series of questions to 10,000 people. They found out only 15% of the group failed in their career due to lack of expertise or technical knowledge in the field they were working in. The other 85% of the group failed in their career due to their social skills/relationships. This group predominantly used negative, resentful, and agitating words in their daily lives.

This message the Lord shared with Israelites is for this nation, our government, our leaders around the world, and for me and you...do not be afraid...and be still.

**3. Trust In God**

Lastly, the Lord told the Israelites to trust in Him since He will fight for them. They do not need to fear the Egyptians. They do not need to give revenge to the Egyptians - they just need to be still and let the Lord do His work.

**Exodus 14:14**

<sup>14</sup> *The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still."*

**Romans 12:19**

<sup>19</sup> *Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.*

Trust in God, God Almighty - We feel better if we have someone who supports or fights on behalf of us. Same for Moses - he was supported by Joshua and Caleb. Same for me - for the past 30 years, you have supported me and prayed for my family. However, as human beings, we have limit to how we can support. Could Joshua and Caleb have fought the Egyptian soldiers? Could they have open the Red Sea? It was the Almighty Lord who can only help us.

**Psalms 106:8**

<sup>8</sup> *Yet he saved them for his name's sake, to make his mighty power known.*

Hudson Taylor was sent to China to lead a missionary group. He tried his best but leading a missionary group in China was not an easy task. He came to a point where he couldn't move forward nor could he end the missionary group. Taylor asked the Lord, "What should I do?"

While reading **John 15:5** (*"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing*"), Taylor realized that the ministry is not with his efforts

and strength, but only in the power of Jesus Christ. With all things, he knew to entrust the Lord and let the Lord do His will.

Trust in God, God of Wisdom - The Egyptians thought the Israelites were stupid to go towards the Red Sea. However, the Almighty Lord also had great wisdom to fight Pharaoh and his army.

**Exodus 14:3-4**

<sup>3</sup> *Pharaoh will think, 'The Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert.'* <sup>4</sup> *And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord."* So the Israelites did this.

In early August 1959, it was announced by President Dwight Eisenhower that Khrushchev was invited to visit the United States, and did so that September, spending thirteen days in the country. On September 27 Sunday, Eisenhower asked Khrushchev to join him to Sunday worship. Khrushchev declined and Eisenhower asked for Khrushchev to wait for him. After the worship, Eisenhower asked Khrushchev what he did for hour and half. Khrushchev answered, "I thought about why you must have attended Sunday Worship, when you have a foreign leader waiting." Eisenhower answered, "as the President of the United States, there is nothing I can do for world peace...so I trusted in God so that He will do His will.

**1 Corinthians 1:25**

<sup>25</sup> *For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.*

Trust in God, God of Everlasting Love - Lastly, let us look at Psalm 136. God loved the Israelites and He showed His love by saving them from the sea and the army.

**Psalm 136:13-15**

<sup>13</sup> to him who divided the Red Sea <sup>[a]</sup> asunder *His love endures forever.*

<sup>14</sup> and brought Israel through the midst of it, *His love endures forever.*

<sup>15</sup> but swept Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea; *His love endures forever.*

Before the sermon, I had asked we pray for Deaconess Lee. She had to go to emergency due to internal bleeding. As you recall last Sunday, we had another snow storm. Deaconess Lee's son was going to visit her on Monday once the storm was over. However, both of his daughter's had dreams about their grandmother, and he decided to visit her on Sunday morning. He found her suffering and took her to emergency. The hospital told him if he was late few hours, she would have not made it. I was so touched when hearing this story and realized how much the Lord loved Deaconess Lee to save her.

There was an elder and his friend was in the hospital due to an illness. During his visit, he realized there were no words to comfort him. All he could do was to pray and ask the Lord..."you know he loves you Lord, but why does he have to suffer like this?" The friend reminded the elder of a passage in **John 11:3** - *So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick."* The friend continued and said, "I do not blame the Lord. It is the Lord who loves me. Since He gave me this illness, I can feel His everlasting love."

My brothers and sisters, when we are in difficult situations, we sometimes ask the Lord, why? But let us realize, Lord with everlasting love and almighty power will do His will. He will let us reach the promise land as He did for Israelites.

**In Summary - When you do not know what to do...**

- 1. Do not fear**
- 2. Be still**
- 3. Trust in God**

