

Sunday, January 23, 2022

1 Timothy 4:13, "Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching."

Crossing Our Red Sea

Series: The Journey of Faith

Text: Exodus 14:1-31 and 15:1 - 19

1 Thessalonians 1:1 - 10

Purpose: I want to PERSUADE my congregation to BELIEVE that God has an individual and corporate will for each believer and fellowship group that involves personal Red Sea crossings.

Introduction:

The devotional from last week was entitled "Starting the Journey of Faith," and the key text was from Exodus 13 and 14:1 - 14 and 1 Thessalonians 1:1 - 10:

1. The First Daily Step is – Turn to God
 2. The Second Daily Step is – The Labor of Love
 3. The Third Daily Step is – Steadfastness of Hope
- ~ 1 Thessalonians 1:1 - 10 gives some practical counsel on daily walking with God:
- ~ vs. 3, "your work of faith" – vs. 9, "you turned to God from idols"
- ~ vs. 3, "labor of love" – vs. 9, "to serve the living and true God."
- ~ vs. 3, "steadfastness of hope" – vs. 10, "to wait for his Son from heaven"
- ~ We all have personal points of bondage that have the potential to overpower us. We are rarely defeated alone!
- ~ Victory over those yokes of bondage are a progressive work; there are many "Red Sea" crossings ahead of each of us! These victorious crossings are extremely rarely accomplished alone!

1. Crossing Our Personal Red Sea Requires True Worship:

~ Worship is the selfless act of giving to God what He requests or that which is our best!

First occurrence of the word 'worship' in the Old Testament, Genesis 22:5, "Then Abraham said to his young men, *"Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you."*

First occurrence of the word 'worship' in the New Testament, Matthew 2:2, "saying, *"where is he who has been born the king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it arose and have come to worship him."*

~ In my opinion one of the most significant verses in the New Testament regarding 'worship' is Romans 12:1, "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."

~ Exodus 4:2, "The LORD said to him (Moses), "What is that in your hand?" He said, "A staff."

John, what is in your hand and are you prepared to give it to the Lord?

~ Exodus 4:20, "So Moses took his wife and his sons and had them ride on a donkey, and went back to the land of Egypt. And Moses took the staff of God in his hand."

~ Exodus 17:9, "So Moses said to Joshua, "Choose for us men, and go out and fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand."

~ On the occasion of the parting of the Red Sea, would I be out of order in suggesting that the 'worship' of the people was their entering into the Red Sea?

Exodus 14:22, "And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left."

2. Crossing Our Personal Red Sea Requires Faith Filled Obedience:

~ Luke 1:38, "And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord, let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her."

~ John 2:5, "His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

~ Mark 10:21, "And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."

~ John, what is the Lord saying to you about your walk with him and are you responding in a positive, obedient and worshipful manner?

3. Crossing Our Personal Red Sea Invariably Involves Partnerships:

~ Mark 6:7, "And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits."

~ Luke 10:1, "After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go."

~ Ecclesiastes 4:12, "And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him – a three-fold cord is not quickly broken."

4. Crossing Our Personal Red Sea Results in Renewed Praise:

~ Exodus 15:1 - 17

Conclusion:

2 Corinthians 2:14, "But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere."