

Don't Give Up

Ex 14:10-29

When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the Lord. 11 They said to Moses, "Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? 12 Is not this what we said to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." 13 And 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. 14 The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent."

15 The Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. 16 Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground. 17 And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. 18 And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen."

19 Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, 20 coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night.

21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. 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. 23 The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. 24 And in the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, 25 clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from before Israel, for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians."

26 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen." 27 So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal course when the morning appeared. And as the Egyptians fled into it, the Lord threw the Egyptians into the midst of the sea. 28 The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host

of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained. 29 But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

We have a saying in Spanish, "**Para atrás, ni para coger impulso.**"

What does it take to move forward?

1. It takes knowing and understanding that we are heading to something better.

A. Where we are now is only temporary. This is not our final destination.

They said' "**were there no graves in Egypt that you brought us to this desert to die?"**

B. Move out of your place of comfort. They were comfortable in Egypt, they were used to living as slaves, and they were used to settling for the left over. **Moving forward involves a change of attitude.**

C. They had developed a slave mentality.

They said; "**It would have been better for us to be slaves in Egypt than to die in the desert.**"

"Didn't we tell you in Egypt to leave us alone and let us serve the Egyptians?"

D. People of God sometimes get accustomed to their worldly surroundings.

-Learned Helplessness

2. Moving forward involves Faith in God and putting to use what He has placed in your hand.

V.16, God said to Moses; "**Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the waters so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground.**

Notice that the only thing that Moses had was Faith in what God had promised and a stick. What has He given you to move yourself and lead others to their destiny?

Perhaps a talent; singing, playing an instrument, fixing something or trade like carpentry or repairing cars or landscaping. It doesn't matter what it is, but use it for the Glory of the Lord.

Perhaps a Spiritual gift such as; teaching or preaching or interceding for others or encouraging others. Whatever it is, put it to use in the Kingdom of God. It will not only push you forward but others also.

-We need to put our faith in the Word of God not anything else.

-Put our faith in Jesus and what He accomplished. His work not ours.

3. Moving forward also depends on God's favor not man's favor.

God's favor will open doors.

Acts 7:45-47

So it was until the days of David, 46 who found favor in the sight of God and asked to find a dwelling place for the God of Jacob.

4. Moving forward involves the power of God.

A. Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses

B. also the power to serve. Notice that it says; “You will be my witnesses

C. Power to speak with boldness.

1 Cor 2:3-5

And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, 4 and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

5. Moving forward involves unity and fellowship with His Church (The body of Christ)

The church is not the building it's the people.

The building is God's house where his children meet.

- when there is unity in God's people, it's easy to move forward.

1 Cor 12:12-13

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

Conclusion;

Charles Swindoll gives the story called “Don't Quit”

Ignace Jan Paderewski, the famous composer-pianist, was scheduled to perform at a great concert hall in America. It was an evening to remember—black tuxedos and long evening dresses, a high-society extravaganza. Present in the audience that evening was a mother with her fidgety nine-year-old son. Weary of waiting, he squirmed constantly in his seat. His mother was in hopes that her son would be encouraged to practice the piano if he could just hear the immortal Paderewski at the keyboard. So—against his wishes—he had come.

As she turned to talk with friends, her son could stay seated no longer. He slipped away from her side, strangely drawn to the ebony concert grand Steinway and its leather tufted stool on the huge stage flooded with blinding lights. Without much notice from the sophisticated audience, the boy sat down at the stool, staring wide-eyed at the black and white keys. He placed his small, trembling fingers in the right location and began to play “Chopsticks.” The roar of the crowd was hushed as hundreds of frowning faces

pointed roar of the crowd was hushed as hundreds of frowning faces pointed in his direction. Irritated and embarrassed, they began to shout:

"Get that boy away from there!"

"Who'd bring a kid that young here?"

"Where's his mother?"

"Somebody stop him!"

Backstage, the master overheard the sounds out front and quickly put together in his mind what was happening. Hurriedly, he grabbed his coat and rushed toward the stage. Without saying one word he stooped over behind the boy, reached around both sides, and began to improvise a countermelody to harmonize with and enhance "Chopsticks." As the two of them played together, Paderewski kept whispering in the boy's ear:

Keep going. Don't quit. Keep on playing...don't stop...don't quit.

And that is how God would respond. We hammer away on the project, which seems about as significant as "Chopsticks" in a concert hall. And about the time we are ready to give up, along comes the Master who leans over and whispers:

Keep going. Don't quit. Keep on playing...don't stop...don't quit. As He improvises on our behalf, providing just the right touch as just the right moment.

And when finally, when we simply try, he will stand in the balcony and applaud louder than anyone else.

Matt 25:21-22

Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.