Moving Forward Series

Lesson 2 – Moving Forward…In Difficult Times

Exodus 14:1-31

• The Australian coat of arms pictures two creatures--the emu, a flightless bird, and the kangaroo.
  o The animals were chosen because they share a characteristic that appealed to the Australian citizens.
  o Both the emu and kangaroo can move only forward, not back.
  o The emu’s three-toed foot causes it to fall if it tries to go backwards.
  o The kangaroo is prevented from moving in reverse by its large tail.

• Those who truly choose to follow Jesus become like the emu and kangaroo, moving only forward, never back

1. Helpless Situation v.3

3 For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, They are entangled in the land, the wilderness hath shut them in.

• Do you ever feel like you are in a hopeless situation?

• Reasons not to move forward with life stems from - Fear
  o Inactivity - being out of use.
  o Inexperience - lack of knowledge of the ways of the world
  o Inability - lack of sufficient power, resources, or capacity.

• Seems like a mistake following the leadership of God

• Psalms 71:11 (KJV) Saying, God has forsaken him: persecute and take him; for there is none to deliver him.

2. Desperate Cry - v. 10

10 And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD.
Followed in obedience.
Yet seems worst off then before.

- 11 And they said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt? 12 Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness.

Jehoshaphat had this problem with the Moabites & Ammonites — 2 Chronicles 20 “O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee.”

3. Perfect Confidence - v.13 - 14

13 And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will show to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.
- Christ is a present help in the time of trouble.
- He knows how to deliver.
- 14 The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.

Sometimes in our life, God will allow us to be hemmed into situations where it is humanly impossible for us to get ourselves out of.

You see church God will sometime allow us to be hemmed into situations or that is circumstances so that He may be glorified.
- The Lord says in Psalm 50:15 call upon me in your day of trouble and I will deliver you and you shall glorify me.

Church the Lord knows that unless we have difficult situations, then some of us would never pray.
- Unless God allow trouble to over come us, some of us would never seek His face.
- So many people only come to church to ask God for a financial blessing because they are in hemmed into a situation where they are down to their last dime and all the bills are due.
- There are so many people the only time they come to church is
when there is a death in the family.
  o Many parents the only time they pray for their children is when one is in trouble.
  o It is sad but true the only way God can get our attention some time is when He allows situations and circumstances to overcome us.

• You see church, God will also allow us to be faced with situations so that He can demonstrate His power.

• The children of Israel are facing the Red Sea, they have mountains on one side, impassible desert on the other, and the enemy on their back.
  o Some of us has found ourselves in similar situations we are faced with problems in our homes, we are surrounded by problems on our jobs, we find ourselves hemmed into a relationship that is going nowhere and people are talking about us on both sides however just as God knew the fragile situation that the Israelites were in He knows the circumstances you are facing today.

• We need to remember He said, I would never leave you nor forsake you. I will be with you always even until the end of the earth.
  o Jesus tells us in John 14th chapter at the first verse “Let not your hearts be troubled. Trust in God and trust in me.”

4. Saving Faith – v.15

15 And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward:
  • There is a part that they and I have to do.
  • Impossibilities will let God work.
  • His work is always forward.
  • Defeat or victory lay in their hands.
  • Obedience gives the victory.

• We must not make light of their situation.
  o There is an uncross able sea before them.
  o Even if they had boats, they could not easy transport the all the people before Pharaoh’s army got there.
  o Scholars tells us that extra-biblical material reveals there were
approximately two million Jews that left Egypt.

• There is a spiritual principle to be understood here.
  o Moses told the people just to stand still and let God take care of it.
  o But God countered with, “Get the people moving forward.”

• The Christian life is not a static or passive life but it is dynamic and active life.
  o This principle doesn’t change when an obstacle is placed in our path.
  o This principle doesn’t change because road gets a little bumpy.
  o This principle doesn’t change because there is a sea in front of us and no boats can be found.
  o This principle doesn’t change because the enemy is on the attack and its look much bigger than our abilities.

• God requires us to keep moving forward regardless.

5. Perfect Protection – v. 19-20

19 And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them.
20 And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light by night to these: so that the one came not near the other all the night.

• Psalm 37:24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.

• God’s Pillar of cloud & fire.

• The slaves were streaming out of Egypt on their way to the birth of a new nation, to becoming the people of God.
  o They were free, at least for the time being.
  o They had been set free in what can only be called a miraculous way.
  o Now they were being directed by a miracle, following a visible pillar of cloud by day that became a glowing fire by night.

• You would think that with freedom, and with the sense of doing God's will, life would immediately be much better.
In fact, life almost immediately became much more challenging.
Living by faith is not for the faint of heart.

• There is a certain bogus security in being a prisoner and a slave.
  o Life within the walls of a prison is probably somewhat predictable.
  o But now even that wispy security was gone.
  o God's special people couldn't simply live by their wits any longer.
  o They were learning to follow God's word, and live by faith.

• His presence promised for us.

6. Impossible Deliverance – v.21

Exodus 14:21 And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.

• Salvation is all of God’s doing.
• Waves held back until all the redeemed passed over.

• Just when it seems like your world has come to an end God shows up.
  o When that marriage seems lost and you are about to call it quits, God puts the spark back in there.
  o When your bills are due and you know you don’t have any money, and just when you begin to worry, God says don’t worry my grace is sufficient.
  o Just when you need God the most, he says don’t you worry I’ll be there.
    ▪ Just call my name, and I’ll be there.
  o And just when your problem seems to have gotten worse, here comes God and gives you an escape route.

• Jesus is the way maker.

7. Triumphant Song – Ex. 15:1

Exodus 15:1 Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the
LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously:

- In Ex 15:1-21 there is 3 Thine’s, 10 thou’s 11 Thy’s but no me’s
- Psalm 115:1 Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth’s sake.
- 1 Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Revelation 19:1-2 I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: For true and righteous are his judgments:

CLOSING

- Have you experienced victory over the impossible?