

## Forward Series - 3

### Moving Your Family Forward

Exodus 14:15 NKJV “And the Lord said to Moses, “Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward.”

**SETTING:** Our scripture today is comes from the book of Exodus.

If you are new to the Bible, let me get you caught up.

God loves the nation of Israel... He made a covenant with them because of His relationship with Abraham, the father of the Jewish Nation. God told Abraham he would multiply his offspring and they would become a great nation. He promised that all the nations of the world would be blessed through his seed.

At one point, there was a terrible famine and Jacob (Abraham’s grandson) led his family and people to Egypt where his favorite son Joseph miraculously came into power. Over time (400+ years), the Jews who were once guest, became slaves in Egypt which had become the supreme world power in that day. After being treated cruelly the Israelites cried out to God for deliverance... He sent them Moses who told Pharaoh to “Let me people Go!”

The Egyptians were dependent upon the Israelite slaves and so Pharaoh the Egyptian King refused to let them go. In Exodus chapter 7 we see the beginning of 10 plagues which convinced Pharaoh to release the Israelites: (1) water to blood (2) Frogs (3) Lice (4) Flies (5) Diseased Livestock (6) Boils and sores (7) Hail and Fire....

Note: the land is devastated; the Egyptians are suffering; Pharaoh is hard hearted and he is refusing to set God’s people free!

#### **TYPES AND SHADOWS – Acts 7:38 calls the Israelites “the church in the wilderness”**

Moses Israel’s redeemer is a picture of Jesus our Redeemer - Pharaoh is a picture of Satan - Egypt is a picture of the world

**Now you come to** Exodus 10:7-9 NIV Pharaoh’s officials said to him, “How long will this man be a snare to us? Let the people go, so that they may worship the Lord their God. Do you not yet realize that Egypt is ruined?” **8** Then Moses and Aaron were brought back to Pharaoh. “Go, worship the Lord your God,” he said. “But tell me who will be going.” **9** Moses answered, **“We will go with our young and our old, with our sons and our daughters, and with our flocks and herds, because we are to celebrate a festival to the Lord.”**

**And Pharaoh said in verse 10 & 11 “You are crazy if you think I am letting you take your women and children”**

1) Know that God Has a Heart for Your Family.

a) **God loves families:**

- i) The family was his original plan – He created Adam and Eve united them in a covenant and told them to multiply.
- ii) The Son of God was born of a virgin, but placed in a family.
- iii) Jesus is a God who loves household salvation. He doesn’t want anyone in your family left behind!

(1) The Philippian Jailer Acts 16 - Paul and Silas are bound with chains in Roman prison. At midnight they begin to sing praises to God. When suddenly God shakes that prison with an earthquake. And all the chains fall

off the prisoners. The jailer freaks out, he knows he is responsible and his superiors will blame him and torture him for allowing the escape. It is so serious that he is about to kill himself, when Paul says, don't hurt yourself we are all here.

- (2) Acts 16:29-31 NKJV Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. **30** And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved? **31** So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

That very night his entire family got saved, baptized in water and worked together ministering to Paul and Silas.

- b) This story in Exodus shows us God's heart and his will. 2 Peter 3:9 NKJV The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

## 2) Trust the Lamb for Your Household.

Narrative: It took 3 more plagues: (8) locusts (9) utter darkness (10) The Final Plague: Ex. 11:4,5 Then Moses said, "Thus says the Lord: 'About midnight I will go out into the midst of Egypt; **5** and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die... (including the firstborn of Pharaoh)

- a) God's people were protected.

There is provision for your family!

Ex 12:4 ESV Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household.

Look at what God said - 12:13 ESV The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

NOTE: 1Cor 5:7 says "... For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed."

- b) The blood of Lamb had to be applied.

- i) We don't apply the blood to our doorpost anymore, the blood gets applied to our hearts.

Be thankful everybody: There are so many things that have passed over you because of the blood of Jesus

- ii) The power of the applied blood in your household.

1Cor. 7:13,14 NIV And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. **14** For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.

- (1) Note: John Calvin, "*For the godliness of the one does more to 'sanctify' the marriage than the ungodliness of the other to make it unclean.*"

Paul is not saying that an unbelieving husband or wife has been made morally holy through his or her Christian spouse.

- (2) He is saying that everyone in a household, even the unbeliever comes under the protection and influence of the applied blood of Jesus.

So you be faithful under the blood, because it allows God legal access to work on your behalf against the plans of the enemy!

### 3) Take the Next Step Forward.

There are two common realities of in the lives of all God's people:

- a) Satan is coming after what he lost when you got your freedom!
- b) You are equipped for this battle!

Satan will use:

- (1) A bad influence or experience with your children.
- (2) A financial collapse that overwhelms.
- (3) Unresolved marital strife that keeps flaring up.
- (4) A hypocrite in the church or some kind of church drama to pull you away.

He uses these things like spears and arrows.

**Its January 2018** - God has begun a good work in you and your family. But you have to **keep moving forward**.

Ex. 13:17,18 ESV When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near. For God said, "Lest the people change their minds when they see war and return to Egypt." **18** But God led the people around by the way of the wilderness toward the Red Sea. And the people of Israel went up out of the land of Egypt equipped for battle.

#### Moving Your Family Forward

- 1) Know that God means you to be where you are.

God brought the families of Israel to an impossible place. (mountains to the left and right; a impassable sea before them and a pursing enemy behind them)

- 2) Move Your Family Forward

**I love what God said to Moses:** Exodus 14:15 NKJV "And the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward."

When they moved FORWARD toward the Red Sea God parted the waters and they passed through on dry ground. Then God destroyed their enemies in the Sea

#### **What is Your Next Step Forward as a Family?**

- 1) Refuse Regret – You can't move forward while looking back.

- a) Regret is of itself, is a nasty enemy that keeps you stuck in the quick sand of resentment.

- b) In the heat of the moment, with pressure mounting... They panicked!

- i) Why did you bring us out here to die in the wilderness... we told you this would happen...

- ii) 14:12 NLT Didn't we tell you this would happen while we were still in Egypt? We said, 'Leave us alone! Let us be slaves to the Egyptians. It's better to be a slave in Egypt than a corpse in the wilderness!'
  - c) For all of us, terrible things have happened in the past. But you can't change it. It is time to move forward!
  - d) Once and for all... this is the year that you move forward beyond a life filled with regret.
- 2) Confront the Conflict – Life is better when things get resolved.
- a) To avoid an uncomfortable and impossible argument let things linger.
  - b) Unresolved conflicts divide households and they will soon bring you in to slavery.
  - c) The goal is family unity! – Oneness

3) Create a Family Action Plan and Walk It Out.

Exodus 14:15 NKJV "And the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward.

Sample of a plan: Be doers of the word and not only hearers.

- i) Family Purpose: we will be a house that loves God and does life God's way.
- ii) Family Meetings: once a month we are going to talk about the state of our family affairs.
- iii) Family Chores: everyone in the family will make a contribution to the household.
- iv) Family Fun: once a week have a family night.