

“Marvelous Truths About God – Part 5”
Exodus 13:17 – 14:1-31
(Preached at Trinity, June 10, 2007)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. As we’ve seen beginning with **Verse 17** and continuing through **Chapter 14** we have the account of Israel’s Exodus from Egypt as God protects them and leads them to safety. For several weeks we’ve been looking at what I’ve called “Marvelous Truths,” wonderful truths that will encourage us as we continue on our own journey to Canaan.
2. So far we’ve looked at nine of these marvelous truths.
 - God’s way is always the best way
 - God is unfailing in His faithfulness to His people
 - God is always present to guide His people
 - God does all things for His own glory
 - God’s people will be hated by the people of this world
 - Unbelief is poison for the child of God and will always lead to fear and a mistrust of God – God wants us to trust Him with a childlike faith
 - God fights our battles on our behalf
 - There is a time for praying and a time for acting
 - Nothing is too hard for God as He works in the lives of His people
3. Tonight I want to conclude this series as we examine three more of the marvelous truths God is revealing to us through His deliverance of His people from Egypt.
 - I. Nothing is too hard for God as He works in the lives of His people –
Chapter 14:15-18; 21-22
 - A. Israel’s escape seemed impossible
 1. They were backed up against the sea with nowhere to turn and the Egyptians were fast approaching
 2. God commands Moses, “Go forward” when there was no possible way of escape.
 3. All that the Israelites could see was the sea on one side and the Egyptians on the other. They were to the point where there was nothing they could do to save themselves.
Moses told them to stand firm and see what God would do.
 - B. The parting of the Red Sea was nothing short of a miracle
 1. There have been numerous attempts to explain the parting of the sea in natural terms. There are even some that try to convince their readers that it wasn’t the Red Sea at all but a shallow Reed Sea.
 - a. None of this explains what the Bible says
 - b. **Verses 16 & 21** tells us Moses stretched forth his rod which brought a wind that caused the parting of the sea.
 - c. **Verse 22** says there was a great wall of water to their right and left

- d. **Verse 27** tells us that Moses stretched forth his rod again and the waters returned to their place.
- 2. This was all miraculous and a small thing for God.
Psalms 118:23 – “This is the LORD’S doing; it *is* marvellous in our eyes.”
- 3. From beginning to end God ordained and orchestrated the exodus for His own glory.
- C. We often find ourselves in great difficulties
 - 1. We also often rely upon ourselves for the solution
 - 2. There is a sense that this is not wrong – God expects us to take action. But it is sin when we forget God
 - 3. God often brings us to the end of our own wisdom and ability. We are up against the proverbial wall. God tells us to trust Him watch and see what He can do.
 - 4. This is the nature of faith
Hebrews 11:1 – “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”
- D. Every sinner is in this very situation.
 - 1. Our sin has caused an impassable sea – an endless separation between us and God. There is nothing we can do to save ourselves.
 - 2. No amount of human effort can save us – But God is able to do the impossible.
Matthew 19:24-26 – “It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. ²⁵ When his disciples heard *it*, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved? ²⁶ But Jesus beheld *them*, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.
Ephesians 2:4-6 – “But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, ⁵ Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) ⁶ And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus:”
 - 3. There is nothing we can do to save ourselves, yet God commands all men to repent and believe. Israel was backed up against the Red Sea and still God told Moses, “speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward:”

II. Those who oppose God will not prosper – **Chapter 14:23-28**

- A. Pharaoh and the Egyptians had shamefully treated the Israelites
 - 1. They had taken the people they had invited into their land and turned them into slaves.
 - 2. They had purposely made their servitude miserable
 - 3. Now they are in hot pursuit in order to drag them back into servitude
 - 4. Notice in **Verse 24** the LORD took notice – He looked upon the Egyptians
God takes notice when His children are abused – and He does not take it lightly

- B. Jesus looks at the treatment of His people as His own personal treatment
 After Paul persecuted the church Jesus asked him,
Acts 9:4 – “Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?”
Matthew 25:45 – “Inasmuch as ye did *it* not to one of the least of these, ye did *it* not to me.”
- C. Jesus warned of the terrible consequences of harming one of His own
Matthew 18:6 – “But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and *that* he were drowned in the depth of the sea.”
1. It would be better for them to die a terrible death
 2. What does it mean to offend one of God’s children
 - a. σκανδαλίζω - to put a stumbling block or impediment in the way, upon which another may trip and fall
 - b. By tempting them to sin – all of us have to be careful of this
 Through our liberty – **See 1 Cor. 8:9-13**
1 Corinthians 8:9 But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak.
1 Corinthians 8:12 – “But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ.”
 - c. By discouraging them in their work
 Our business is to encourage
Thessalonians 5:11 – “Therefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.”
 3. This worst assault upon God’s people is when someone sets out to deliberately harm them through opposition or persecution
- III. The duty of God’s people – **Chapter 14:29-31**
- A. Israel was greatly affected by their experience
1. They feared the LORD
 - a. The word here is נָרָא (ya-ray)
 - b. Here it means to be in awe of or to have a reverence for
 2. They believed God and God’s servant – this is the same word used to describe Abraham’s faith. In other words, they trusted God and believed His Word as delivered by His servant
 3. These are two the duties of God’s people
- B. We are to approach God with a holy fear
1. The great sin of humanity is that they do not properly fear God
Psalm 36:1 – “The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, *that there is* no fear of God before his eyes.”
Romans 3:18 – “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”
 2. It is easy to sin when you have no fear of the consequences
 3. Multitudes will ignore God on this Lord’s Day because they have no fear
 There are hundreds of people at our local mall right now. Most would call themselves Christians. By their own actions they deny the reality of God in their lives – They do not fear God

4. Men find it easy to take the name of God in vain often using it in the most wicked ways because they have no fear of God
- C. Few people seriously contemplate coming into the presence of God
1. It is a terrible thing for us to have low views of God. When we do not stand in awe of Him. Israel had just seen the great demonstration of God's great power and majesty and they stood in holy fear.
 2. Most people think low thoughts of God – They find it easy to dismiss Him. They have no understanding of our great God
Hebrews 12:28-29 – “Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: ²⁹ For our God *is* a consuming fire.”
Hebrews 10:31 – “*It is* a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”
- D. It's instructive to witness how godly men in the Bible were affected by the presence of God.
1. Isaiah after seeing God on His throne
Isaiah 6:5 – “Then said I, Woe *is* me! for I am undone; because I *am* a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.”
 2. The Apostle John when He saw the vision of the resurrected Christ
Revelation 1:17 – “And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead.”
- E. As God saves us He creates within us a holy fear that leads to salvation
1. This fear of God is the first fruit of Christian conversion
Psalms 111:10 – “The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do *his commandments*: his praise endureth for ever.”
 2. This fear of God continues and increases as we grow in holiness
2 Corinthians 7:1 – “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”
- F. Israel was also brought to believe God when they saw His mighty power
1. Sadly, this was a temporary belief. In just a few days they would
Exodus 16:2-3 – “And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness: ³ And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, *and* when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”
 2. This same thing happened often during the ministry of Jesus
John 8:30-32 – “As he spake these words, many believed on him. ³¹ Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed; ³² And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
John 8:59 – “Then took they up stones to cast at him:”

- G. This is a terrifying warning to the religious man
1. We can become very religious, very devoted to our religious duties and still not know God.
Matthew Henry – "Men may go a great way towards heaven and yet come short; nay, may go to hell with a good reputation."
 2. This is a particular warning to those who have little devotion to God and yet presume all is well. If sincere, good, religious people shall be condemned, what hope do the outwardly wicked have?

Conclusion:

1. Israel's deliverance from Egypt teaches us much about our great deliverance from sin and death. God is unfailing as He leads us, defends us, protects us – nothing is too hard for God.
2. The Exodus was designed by God to teach us about coming to Christ for salvation. Paul describes the comparison.
1 Corinthians 10:1-4 – "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; ² And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; ³ And did all eat the same spiritual meat; ⁴ And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ."
3. We must trust Him, rest in Him. He is always present, always faithful – always God. We must come before Him with great reverence and love. We must see His great glory, His infinite value. We must worship Him alone – it must be a true worship founded upon our trust in Jesus Christ our Savior.