

ALL THE KING'S HORSES

Exodus 13:1-14:14

Calvary Church of Pacific Palisades
May 8, 2011 ♦ Sunday Morning Worship

Introduction:

Humpty Dumpty ... once broken, couldn't put him back together. Important lesson for mom's and for children. We live in a broken world, reminders that no power on earth can repair what is shattered. But there is ONE power that can put the pieces together, one power that is determined to take what is broken and make it new.

Please open ... Exodus 13. Page 49.

Bondage crying out 430 years ... 10 Plagues ... **"Let my people go"** ... plunder of Egypt. Answered prayer. But it would not be long until Pharaoh would change his mind and come after them. Chariots ... horses.

READ 14:5-9 Pharaoh's workforce wiped out by a spiritual tornado. WAKING UP TO LOSS. Hardened heart, changed his mind, set out in chariots (3 warriors each, 1 driver, 2 fighters).

Pursued by their oppressor. The one who had kept them in chains was chasing after them.

Distracted, confused and surprised that God would allow this after such a stunning victory.

How were they to cope, how could they proceed? By practicing 3 crucial spiritual disciplines.

READ 13:3 & 14

1. It is so easy to get distracted and lose perspective. Fearful. Forgetting the miracle.

READ 14:11-12

1st of many complaints against Moses and YHWH. 1 of 10. Apparently they were much happier as slaves.

It is so easy to get distracted and lose perspective.

ill. Jack and the pretzel up his nose. Forget what a blessing, a miracle Jack is.

All of us have a tendency to get distracted by pretzels, we need to be reminded of miracle.

Commemorate this day ... Remember your salvation ... SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE #1 FOCUS

STAY FOCUSED ON GOD. REMEMBER WHAT GOD HAS DONE. Deliverance and freedom.

Good Friday, Communion Sunday's, Easter ... never forget the price has been paid and grave defeated.

Never forget that you belong to God. Nothing can separate you from His love. No condemnation.

Ill. I'm just a waste of space. That's a lie. That did not come from God.

Ill. Matt 14 Peter walking water; minute he focused on circs and not Jesus he sank and began to drown.

Hebrews 12:2-3 (NIV84) ² Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

READ v. 13:17-18a

Get the map out and plan the trip ... everyone knows the shortest distance between 2 points is a straight line. VIA MARIS ... way of the Sea. Went the opposite direction. Like going to San Diego through San Francisco through Las Vegas. Didn't make sense. WHY?

#1 To avoid conflict, the path of least resistance. Heavily guarded route.

#2 To put them in a position where they had to trust in God.

Marches people toward Red Sea where there would be no escape route available. Everyone knows you don't hem yourself in when being pursued by a marauding army.

In broken world it's easy to get distracted (lose focus); tempted to take short-cuts.

2. There are no short-cuts to spiritual growth.

FOLLOW GOD'S LEAD EVEN WHEN IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE. ... SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE #2 TRUST

In life, travel some very challenging terrain. Unfamiliar territory. Uncharted. No training manual.

Many make it our goal to avoid conflict, to take the shortest route, the path of least resistance with KIDS.

Ill. Dad who told me that he and a group of parents (kids grown and gone); had it to do over. Trust now.

Have to let them struggle. Failure backdoor to success. We learn more, grow more from losses. Yet, were determined to shield our children from failure, and deprive them of the blessing of spiritual growth.

God's leads us on circuitous route and protects us along the way ... so we'll learn to trust in Him.

Dedicate them as babies ... lift them up to God all their lives. No short-cuts. Trusting God.

READ vv. 14:13,14

Do not be afraid, stand firm and you will see ... you need only be still.

3. There will usually be an attack after a miraculous victory ... Surprised? Why are they pursuing

STAND STILL AND TRUST GOD TO FIGHT FOR YOU.

Spiritual warfare ... Ephesians 6, Put on the full Armor of God, so that you may be able to ...

Take your stand ... Eph. 6:11

Able to stand ... Eph 6:13

After you have done everything, to stand ... Eph 6:13

Stand firm then ... Eph 6:14

God is fighting for you. Protecting you. Stop attacking, stand still, trust God to fight for you.

Ill. Can you imagine how Mary must have felt as she gave up her Son to do what God had sent Him to do? Standing there, near the cross, trusting in God.

Conclusion:

Mother's ... most important role on earth. Privilege, hard work ... exhilarating and frightening.

Don't get distracted .. focus on what God has done, and will do. Don't get confused ... God's path for growth leads over difficult terrain. Don't be surprised ... when there are attacks, setbacks; STAND.

All the King's horses may not be able to put broken things back together again, but God can and will.

The God who delivered the Israelites, leading the Israelites, fighting for the Israelites is the same God who delivers and leads and fights for you ...