

If you have any questions about the outline material below, feel free to email me at benjamin.j.williams@gmail.com

Sermon Outline

“THE RED SEA”

1. Introduction
 - a. LAST WEEK, Cameron: “You can take God’s people out of Egypt, but it’s really hard to take Egypt out of God’s people.”
 - b. THIS WEEK: The people need more than just “rescue.”
2. More Than Rescue
 - a. EXODUS 14:2 “Tell the people of Israel to turn back ... you shall encamp facing it, by the sea.” God turns the people in the “wrong” direction, back to face Pharaoh. They will be caught between the Egyptian army and the sea.
 - b. EXODUS 14:3 “Pharaoh will say, ‘... They are wandering in the land; the wilderness has shut them in.’” This is apparently what God wants.
 - c. POINT #1: There is more going on here than merely a rescue operation. If all God wanted was to change the geography of His people, there would be a better way to do that. This wrinkle in the plan tells us something else is going on as well.
3. Triumphant Over His Enemy
 - a. EXODUS 14:5 “I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, and the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD.”
 - b. POINT #2: God is both saving a people AND triumphing over His enemy. It isn’t enough to evade slavery. Evil had to be defeated. This isn’t about running. This is about victory.
4. Changing the People
 - a. EXODUS 14:11 “Is it because there are no graves in Egypt?”
 - b. POINT #3: In order to truly rescue the people, God has to change the people. The people do not yet understand, but they need to learn. It isn’t enough for the people to be “rescued” if they are still thinking like slaves. It isn’t a choice between dying here or dying there. They were already dead there!!
5. Faith & Silence
 - a. EXODUS 14:14 “The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.”
 - b. POINT #4: Your part in this story is faith. This is not a story of human heroism. God alone is the victor and he will have all the glory. We can wait on God or we can return to Pharaoh, but we cannot save ourselves.
6. Paul compares baptism to the Red Sea crossing, 1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-4.
 - a. BAPTISM ... is more than rescue. If God just wanted to pluck us out of sin, there are easier ways of doing it.
 - b. BAPTISM ... is the defeat of God’s enemy. Baptism is the celebration of Jesus’ victory, and he receives all the glory.
 - c. BAPTISM ... must result in changed lives. It is easier to take the people out of sin than take sin out of the people.
 - d. BAPTISM ... requires only your faith. Baptism is not you defeating sin. It is your faith saying that God has.

Bible Class Outline

Note: Allow room for good discussion wherever it arises and do not feel compelled to cover all of the thoughts below. Think of these as discussion starters rather than lesson plans.

Key Point: The Exodus story is not only significant for Old Testament thinking, but also plays a large role in how Paul outlined the gospel in the book of Romans.

1. God's Passover

- a. **Then:** The firstborn of Egypt died as a final plague, prying the Hebrews free from Pharaoh's clutches.
- b. **Now:**
 - i. Christ is the firstborn son who dies to free God's people (Romans 5:6-8). This is like a reversal of the Passover, where God gives his own son rather than taking the firstborn of Egypt (see also 1 Corinthians 5:7-8).
 - ii. Like the blood of the lamb on the doorpost, by the blood of Jesus we are "saved by him from the wrath of God" (Romans 5:9-10).
- c. **Discussion:** Why is it better that God gave His son rather than taking ours? What does that act tell us about God?

2. God's Liberation

- a. **Then:** God delivered Israel from slavery by the Red Sea.
- b. **Now:**
 - i. God frees us through baptism into the death of Christ and new life to follow (Romans 6:3-4). See also 1 Corinthians 10:1-4.
 - ii. Passing through baptism, we cease to be slaves of sin and begin to be servants of God (Romans 6:17-23).
- c. **Discussion:** How is the Christian "free" from sin? Is that different from being "forgiven"?

3. God's Law

- a. **Then:** After crossing the Red Sea, God delivered the Law at Sinai.
- b. **Now:**
 - i. God releases us from the Law to serve Him in a new way by the Spirit (Romans 7:1-6).
 - ii. Why? "For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do" (Romans 8:3, see v. 1-4).
- c. **Discussion:** In what way is following the Spirit superior to the Law? Does following the Spirit mean we are "lawless" and free to do whatever we please?

4. God's Leading

- a. **Then:** After receiving the Law, Israel is led by God through the wilderness. During this period, Israel grumbles and occasionally even requests to go back into Egypt as slaves. They do not always seem to appreciate that God has made them His own people which is far better than being slaves.
- b. **Now:**
 - i. Christians are led by God's Spirit away from slavery and into sonship (Romans 8:15-16).
 - ii. Though this will at times be difficult ("suffering"), the freedom from slavery in God's glory will be worth it (Romans 8:18-21).
- c. **Discussion:** Does the Christian story begin or end at baptism? Why?