

Sermon Follow-up | June 20, 2021

Re-cover from Fear

Focus Passage: Exodus 14:1–14

Larger Context: The deliverance of the Hebrew people from Egypt after having been enslaved there for 400 years.

Other Passages Referenced:

Comments:

In the *Allow the Word to Speak* section, we will pose the same 5 questions to this week's passage that we used in previous weeks. Fear is a major theme in Exodus 14 and in the sermon, "Re-cover from Fear." We don't normally think of fear itself as sin, but it can play into sin as it keeps us from trusting God and causes us to make ungodly decisions. Again, this morning, the text instructs the Israelites (and I believe each of us) to "Fear not." In question 5, about what we can learn about Satan/sin, focus on how fear impacted the response of the Israelites. Also, consider how fear of losing the Israelites played into the Egyptians' attempt to capture and return the Hebrew people. After you've gone through the passage yourself to answer the questions, you'll find a section lower in the document titled *Some Answers to the Bible Study Framework Questions*.

Sermon Recap

The Israelites had been enslaved and abused for 400 years in Egypt. They cried out to the LORD for deliverance, and He raised up Moses to go before the Egyptian King, Pharaoh, to demand that the Pharaoh allow the Israelites to go out to the wilderness to worship the LORD their God. When Pharaoh refused to let the people go, the LORD God sent 10 plagues upon all of Egypt, culminating in the plague of the first-born in which the first-born of humans and animals died throughout the land. After that final plague, Pharaoh finally relented, at least temporarily, and allowed the Israelites to go out to worship their God.

Although Moses was the visible human leader of the Israelites, the LORD God was actually directing their path with a cloud by day and fire by night. When the LORD led the Israelites in a circuitous route, Pharaoh saw their unorthodox meandering and assumed they were lost. He sent the mighty Egyptian army with speedy chariots to bring the Israelites back to Egypt. When the Israelites found themselves pinned between the Red Sea on one side and the approaching Egyptian chariots on the other, they were "greatly afraid." Fear wants to control us. It wants to control our vision, our feelings, and our memory.

Although the presence of the LORD was visibly present in the cloud and fire, the Israelites fixed their eyes on the ensuing Egyptian army and lost awareness of God's presence and promises. Fear was trying and succeeding in causing the Israelites to forget God's past faithfulness to them during the plagues. They were not confident in His promises to deliver them. They even seemed confused about their own previous responses to worship and trust God.

In a display of His power, the LORD parted the waters of the Red Sea and led the Israelites to the other side on dry ground. Then He allowed the waters to come back together to drown the ensuing Egyptian soldiers. Exodus 14:1–14 demonstrates that fear began to control the Israelites' vision of reality, their feelings, and their memory. However, God re-covered them from their fears. Through Moses, the LORD promised the Israelites that He would fight for them. The Israelites only had to "fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD." The instruction to "stand firm" went against their instinctual fear responses of fight or flight.

When fear controls our vision, our feelings, and our memory, it distorts how we see the world and drives our decision-making away from godly decisions. Many of us consistently experience core fears like, “Am I good enough?” “Do people like me?” “What if I fail?” “Will God really forgive and accept me?” In those moments, we need to reflect on God’s past faithfulness to us and the promises He has given us. What past acts of God or promises from God do you need to remember as you take your eyes off your fear and recognize God’s presence?

As Christians today, we see that the Exodus from Egypt was a picture of what was to come through Jesus. We do not look back to the Red Sea for deliverance but rather to the cross of Jesus. There, Jesus parted a figurative sea of sin and led us safely through to a restored relationship with God on the other side. Exodus 14:4 explains that God’s actions in part were so that “the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD.” The LORD wanted to make Himself known in the lives of the Israelites, as well as in the lives of their oppressors.

Do you know the LORD? Have you seen His salvation in your life? If not, or if you’re not sure, contact me at dsouth@wcchapel.org or one of our other pastors. We’d love to talk with you.

Group Gathering

Group Check-in — Care, Celebration, Encouragement (About 1/3 of meeting time)

1. Informal conversation to allow individuals to catch up with one another.
2. Ask if anyone would share how they’ve been hearing and obeying God’s direction.

Allow the Word to Speak — Be Hearers of the Word (About 1/3 of meeting time)

READ Genesis 3:1–21

1. Does the passage reveal a promise from God to trust? ... Is the promise for me?
2. Does the passage reveal a command from God to obey? ... Is the command for me?
3. Does the passage reveal a principle to live by?
4. Does the passage reveal understanding about who God is, how He works, or about His Gospel?
5. Does the passage reveal understanding about who Satan is, how He works, or about sin?

Put the Word into Practice — Be Doers of the Word (About 1/3 of meeting time)

1. How should I apply the truths of the passage to my life?
 - a. Can I recognize how fear tries to control my life?
 - i. Vision?
 - ii. Feelings?
 - iii. Memories?
 - b. How do I see fear playing into my decision-making?
 - c. Is there a core fear(s) that affects how I look at the world? ... What are those fears that seek to control me?
 - d. What past experiences of God’s faithfulness or what promises from God should I use to confront my fears?
 - e. Is there anything to which I am enslaved for which I need to cry out to the LORD to deliver me?
2. Pray accordingly:
 - a. LORD, give me faith to trust your promise, even when I can’t see how you will keep it.
 - b. LORD, give me the will and strength to obey your command.

- c. LORD, teach me how to apply this principle in daily living.
- d. LORD, thank you for revealing yourself and your character through these verses. I worship you.
- e. LORD, deliver me from the evil one. Thank you for showing me how he is working to keep me from following you.

The Big Question: What do you sense God's Spirit saying to you and what concrete action will you take in response? Share your answer with the group or another trusted Christian and ask them to pray for you.

Some Answers to the Bible Study Framework Questions

1. Promises –
 - a. The main promise given to the Israelites related to this event is found in Exodus 6:1-8 where the LORD God promises to deliver them out of Egypt into the Promised Land.
 - b. The LORD's declaration to harden Pharaoh's heart to make him pursue the Israelites can be taken as a promise (14:1–4). The LORD's protection of His people is also implied in that promise with "I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, and the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD."
 - c. "The LORD will work salvation for you today" (v. 13).
2. Commands — The commands came from Moses as God's spokesperson, "Fear not, stand firm, see the salvation the LORD will work.
3. Principles —
 - a. Fear seeks to take our eyes off God so it can control our vision, feelings, and memories.
 - b. The specific promises in Exodus were intended for the Israelites in that moment He was delivering from enslavement from Egypt. However, the promises of God fighting for His people to bring salvation is a principle true today, along with His ability to harden and soften hearts.
4. Revelation about God/Gospel
 - a. The LORD is able to harden and soften hearts.
 - b. The LORD sometimes leads in ways that look completely illogical in order to glorify Himself in the end.
 - c. The LORD fights for His people ... Salvation belongs to Him.
5. Revelation about Satan/sin —
 - a. Satan uses fear to distort our decision-making and our view of reality. Fear can lead us to distrust God's promises as in the Garden of Eden when he asked, "Did God really say?"

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES: Click [here](#) for some good opportunities.