



Tuesday Devotion: Exodus Week 3 April 14, 2020

Water, Breath & Lifting It Up

Bible Reference: Exodus 17

In this section of Exodus, the children of Israel are complaining again about something they complained about before—water. Now in fairness, when you are in the desert the lack of water is a pretty common thing, but they are missing something important. They are missing the fact that God has always provided for their needs, all they have to do is ask.

Rule #2 in my “Red Sea Rules” book says, “Be more concerned for God’s glory than your relief.” This weekend we were able to share that the message that the church might be more relevant now than ever. Our building became irrelevant over night, but the mission and vision couldn’t be any more relevant! We are looking at a hurting world.

Water and breath might be right next to each other in the important stuff we need to live every day. Our concern with this virus is that it has a lot to do with breath, or not being able to breathe, which instills fear in people seeing that it is necessary to live. What can we learn from the Israelites? First, that we should thank God for breath every day. I don’t know about you, but breathing is one of those things for which I forget to thank Jesus. Pray for those who can’t breathe and pray that Jesus heals them.

This weekend we put out the yard signs we had made which say “Jesus Heals. Trust Him.” Our God brought water out of a rock for the Israelites, what do you think that means for breath? Is He limited to heal through medical equipment? What if people started being healed without a ventilator? What if we had more ventilators than we needed?

This chapter of Exodus ends in a strange way. The Israelites were being attacked by the Amalekites. When Moses kept his arms lifted toward heaven (as if praising the Lord) the Israelites would be winning the battle, but if he grew tired and his arms fell, the Amalekites would take the lead. Not being able to do it on his own, Moses needed help keeping his arms lifted to heaven so they could win that battle.

What possible connection could this have for us today? What if our battle in our wilderness is more about lifting our hands up in praise and trust in Jesus than being concerned with what we can’t do?

A couple of churches are voicing their frustration with the current rules of our government. They are struggling with the rights we have as churches verses other places. One thing that is beneficial about sticking with Romans 13 is that you don't waste time and energy on a pointless battle. What do we expect to gain by battling the government right now? How will that make the church look to outsiders?

This is where "Red Sea Rule" #2 is very important: be more concerned with God's glory than your relief. The church has the opportunity to speak about Jesus, who we know can heal and who we know we can trust. By spending our time lifting our hands in praise and lifting up prayers for breath, we point to Jesus. Moses won the battle by lifting up his hands. Right now, trusting Jesus to give us breath and trusting Him to heal will give God the glory. The challenge comes every time we are tempted to whine. We need the help of each other to lift one another up so we can point to Jesus again and give Him the glory in and through this wilderness season.

The world is watching us. Are you ready to lift up prayers for breath, prayers for healing, and prayers for each other? Will you point others to Jesus' glory?

He is Risen! You know what to do next...

God's Peace,
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