Facing Your Red Sea  
Exodus 14:5-18

Introduction:
A. What do you do when your life doesn’t go according to your plan?
B. We all find ourselves in the midst of circumstances we never chose.
C. Phrases we say, “I was supposed to be married by now” “Get that raise by now” “Have kids by now” “Be healthier by now” “I was supposed to have retired by now” “I wasn’t supposed to get sick” “They weren’t supposed to die”
D. Israel had high hopes and expectations of making it to the Promised Land. They left Egypt boldly (v. 8). God had another plan (Exo. 14:1-7). God was going to receive ALL glory.
E. The children of Israel’s escape did not go as they had probably planned.
F. We will experience our own difficult circumstances. This morning lets notice what the Children of Israel’s experience teaches us when we have our own Red Sea Experience.

When We Focus on Our Circumstances, We Allow Fear into Our Lives (vs. 9-10)
A. Israel looked around and only saw their unwanted circumstances (Egyptians and the sea).
B. What circumstances are you facing right now? Disease, Work/Money, Relationship? These are your Red Sea. What fears have your circumstances caused to surface in your life?
   1. Disease – the fear of suffering and death
   2. Work/Money – the fear of being broke or not having enough money to pay the bills
   3. Relationships – single/the fear of being alone; married/the fear of losing someone
C. When we allow ourselves to focus on our circumstances and worry about them, we invite fear into our lives (Matt. 6:25-34).

When Fear Enters Our Lives, Our Faith is Weakened (vs. 11-12)
A. Israel was so fearful because of their circumstances that their faith became weak.
   1. They assumed they were about to die.
   2. They would have rather been in Egypt where they suffered bondage for over 400 years – which was so bad they cried out to God for help and deliverance (Exo. 2:23-25; 3:7-10).
   3. The Children of Israel had witnessed God sending the plaques on Egypt. They forgot all they had endure with God’s help in the past.
4. Psa. 106:7-8 – “Our fathers, when they were in Egypt, did not consider your wondrous works; they did not remember the abundance of your steadfast love, but rebelled by the sea, at the Red Sea.”

B. How have your fears caused your faith to be weakened?
   1. Do you think about God during your Red Sea experience?
   2. Do you cry out to God in fervent prayer?
   3. Do you trust that God will provide and help you cross your Red Sea?

C. Jesus told his disciples to have enough faith to say to the mountain “be thrown into the sea” and it would happen (Matt. 21:21-22).

D. The fear of our circumstances shouldn’t weaken our faith; our faith should weaken the fear of our circumstances.

When Our Faith is Weakened, Our Outlook Changes (vs. 13a)
   A. Israel’s outlook had changed; they thought they had no hope. They thought nothing could be done or would be done.
   B. Moses listened to the people grumble and complain and knew they thought they were defeated. They no longer had the hopeful expectations of journeying to the Promised Land.
   C. Our outlook has changed when we no longer believe we have any hope.
      1. We complain about our circumstances because we think that’s all we can do.
      2. We question God about our circumstances and blame for allowing it to happen.

Crossing Our Red Sea (vs. 13-15) – Moses doesn’t know exactly what’s going to happen, but he trusts God (Heb. 11:1).
   A. Fear Not – command given most often in the Bible
      1. God is always with us (Jos. 1:9; Psa. 23:4).
      2. God is with you even when you walk through the valley of the shadow of death (Psa. 23:4).
   B. Stand Firm – most people back down during trials; Moses said get up and take your position
      1. Paul said we were to put on the whole armor of God so we could stand firm against the schemes of the devil (Eph. 6:10-20).
      2. We can’t cross over our Red Sea experiences if we do not clothe ourselves with His armor.
   C. Watch God Work – God is the one who is going to fight for you and you will never see the Egyptian again.
1. Psa. 56:3-4 – When I am afraid, I put my trust in you In God…”

2. Even when we don’t see it our understand what is happening, God is working in our lives. He is going to fight for us and help us cross the Red Sea.

D. Be Silent – stop complaining and listen; take notice of God

1. Psa. 46:10 – Be still and know that I am God
2. God is still God and He still sits on His throne.
3. Jesus is still Lord of Lords and King of Kings.
4. Isa. 43:1-3

Conclusion:

A. ILLS: Michael Whitworth dealing with the reality of losing his son.

B. The Lord tells the people to “Go Forward” - the Red Sea is in front of them.

C. We can’t allow the fear of our circumstances to paralyze us.

D. We must remember, God is always with us and help us through our Red Sea experiences (vs. 16-18; 23-31).

E. God has ultimately given us salvation through Jesus Christ.