

Sermon – Sunday, March 26, 2023, by Pastor Dwight Benoit

Text: Exodus 14: 15ab

“And The LORD said to Moses, Wherefore criest thou to me?”

Title: “Why Do you Cry to ME?”

PRAYER, is it not, “trusting [believing, confiding, not doubting] in **THE LORD?**”

The Psalmist declared, “**HE (GOD)** made known **HIS** ways to Moses, **HIS** acts to the children of Israel.” (Psalms 103: 7)

Throughout the Old Testament, the *Hebrews* are told, ‘*What GOD* wanted them to *do.*’

But to the *Leaders*, (Moses), they (he) are told, ‘*Why GOD* was doing what *HE did!*’

The Psalmist again declared, “The secret of **The LORD** is with them that fear HIM!”

(Psalm 25: 14)

“Why Do you Cry to ME?”

The picture of the text...

The LORD *through* Moses, led the Israelites into the wilderness... V. 3 of chapter 14, says,

“...they are entangled [in a confused mass; wrapped or twisted together] in the land.

The wilderness has shut them in.”

CHURCH, the *first striving* of **The HOLY SPIRIT** is to lead the soul into a true sense of utter emptiness and barrenness, that the soul knows its incapable of helping itself.

Only trust [believe, confide, do not doubt] in **GOD’S Divine GRACE!**

The picture of the text...

They have been led between Pi-hahiroth and Baal-zephon, like a born-again babe in **CHRIST**, *saved from Egypt (sin)*, yet *not understanding a thing*; shut-up (can’t go right *nor* left);

trapped between *broken law* and feet planted on solid ground; no longer in sinking sands.

But mind you, **GOD led them**, V. 2, “that they camp before Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the Sea, over against Baal-zephon.”

Had **GOD** made a mistake in leading them into such a trap? Has **GOD** forsaken them?

The picture of the text...

V. 10, “...Pharaoh drew near, and they were sore afraid, and cried unto **The LORD.**”

V. 15, “And **The LORD** said to Moses, **Wherefore criest thou to ME?**”

Think of the circumstances the Israelites were in—the Red Sea is before them and the Egyptians were behind—so that when **The LORD** said to Moses, “**Why do you cry unto ME?**” Moses might

very properly replied, “What else can I do? There are great multitudes of blood-thirsty enemies behind us and nothing but this roaring Sea in front of us; and mountains on our right and left—

What can we do except cry unto YOU?”

Point: It was not the time for **PRAYING**. **PRAYING** about the matter had passed. It was time for

Acting Faith. So, **The LORD** said to Moses, in effect, “Speak not to **ME**, but Speak unto the Children of Israel, that they *Go Forward*—forward through the Sea that now rolls in front of

them. That Sea will divide as they march into it, so you need not ‘whole another **PRAYER Meeting**,

about this (Cancer). I will prepare a pathway for the people as they advance, and they shall go safely through the very midst of the Sea.

“Why Do you Cry to ME?”

Hear me, Moses was a **Man of Faith in GOD**... He knew Pharaoh’s army (Cancer) was not a threat to **GOD**... Moses said to the people, V. 13, “Fear not...”

Sometimes ‘fear’ energizes us and we quickly try to avoid danger. Or ‘fear’ paralyzes us, and we don’t know what to do! [It was when the disciples were utterly helpless in the storm, that **The LORD** rebuked the winds!]

Moses said, “Stand still and see the Salvation of **The LORD**.” (V. 13)

“**HE** is a very present help in trouble.” (Psalms 46: 1) “**HE** knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptation.” (2 Peter 2:9) The Salvation was not of works—“**The LORD** shall fight for you.”

(V. 14) The Salvation was not of words— “Ye shall hold your peace.” (V. 14)

CHURCH when stuck between a ‘rock and a hard place,’ *remember, JESUS PAID IT ALL!*

Remember, “On a Hill far away, stood an old, rugged Cross...” Your strength is to “Stand still!”

While you “Stand still,” “Be Still, and know that **GOD** is **GOD**. (Psalm 46: 10)

“Why Do you Cry to ME?”

It perfectly clear, then, that there comes a time when *crying out* to **GOD** in **PRAYER**, is not the thing to do! Since **JESUS** commands us, “**ASK**,” but what follows that command? Why the promise, “**you shall receive**.” There must be a time for “**receiving**!” So open your heart, *reach out* your hands and *gratefully receive* what **GOD** was waiting to give you. Don’t continue **ASKING** and *forget* or *neglect* to **receive**! That puts **PRAYER** out of its proper place!

JESUS said, **SEEK!** Well, if you have *sought* and, at last, found *the treasure* you’ve been **seeking** for—but if, instead of *perceiving* that it is there and taking possession of it, and blessing **GOD** that **HE** revealed it to you—if you still go on **SEEKING**, then you are neglecting that there is a time to find!

JESUS said, **KNOCK!** Also, “*It shall be opened unto you.*” Suppose you’ve **knocked** and the door has been opened to you, but you still stand there **knocking**? It shows that you are acting foolishly and wrongly—casting reflections on **The OWNER** of the house and upon *the sincerity* of your own **knocking**. How sad it is that the door is opened, and you stand there, and won’t go in.

In each of these cases, **The LORD’S** question to Moses (us) comes with appropriateness,

“Why Do you Cry to ME?”

The next command came from **GOD** to Moses, “Go forward...” (V. 15) The reality that the Israelites was facing the Sea (Cancer) was no problem to **GOD**, **GOD** told Moses exactly what to do. [When Moses lifted up **The Rod**, the waters parted, and Israel was able to walk across on dry land and escape the Enemy Army.

It required **ALMIGHTY POWER** to roll the difficulties back and leave a free and open way of escape, so the weary, to be at rest.

Looks just like **JESUS!** “Through the veil of **HIS** flesh, **HE** hath consecrated for us a new and living way. (Hebrew 10: 20) Draw near to **The LORD!** **The WAY** is not only made by **HIM**, but **JESUS is The WAY**. Not only *is HE The WAYMAKER!* **HIMSELF**, we need every step of the way.

“**I AM The WAY, follow ME!**”

Go forward, only believe these ‘watery walls of judgment, so dark and tall, cannot overflow you! *Only Believe! Only Believe!* All things are possible if you *only believe*. All things with **GOD** is possible, if you *only Believe!*”