

## LESSON #11 - DELIVERING WATERS - EXODUS 14: 22-28

**COMING TO THE WATERS** - Abraham Lincoln once said he had been forced to his knees because he had nowhere else to go. Many of us have experienced that feeling. We know, as Christians that God will send DELIVERING WATERS which take us, through our problems, to safety.

**THE PRAYER** - Dear Lord, there are times when we feel that we are at the end of our rope. Although we always ask for Your protection, especially in these times, deliver us. Grant that we hear Your invitation to COME TO THE WATERS so that we might be saved. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

**PARCHED HEARTS - ILLUSTRATION** - Most of the stories I tell are true...this one isn't. It begins with a flash flood and volunteers risking their lives to save stranded victims. One old man was up to his knees in the fast-rising waters when a rowboat came. "Hop in, we'll save you!", they said. "No thanks, the Lord will provide," was his reply. A short while later, a motor boat was sent to save the old fella. By now the waters were at his waist, but again he declined assistance, saying: "No thanks, the Lord will provide." Eventually, the water was up to his chin, and a helicopter was dispatched. Over a loudspeaker, the call went out: "Grab the ladder, this is your last chance!" "Thanks anyway, but I don't need you, the Lord will provide," came the calm reply. Before the helicopter landed, the old man was standing before the entrance to heaven, mad as could be. He yelled at St. Peter, "I remember being in trouble, praying up a storm, so why did you let me drown?" St. Peter looked at him, shook his head, and explained: "We provided two boats and a helicopter. What more do you want?"

**THOUGHT:** Humankind knows that it needs a Savior. Ongoing wars, prejudice, hatred, faithlessness and decline of morality bring us to the conclusion that we are helpless and lost. Unfortunately, like the old man, many people do not want to be rescued by God. They want to do things their way - be rescued their way. That's certainly the way it was for the Children of Israel when God took them out of bondage. Let's take a quick look at these verses and see if we can identify the attitude of the old man. Please, read these verses and answers the questions

### SCRIPTURE SEARCH - HUMANKIND'S THIRST - THE REFERENCES ARE FROM EXODUS

VERSE	QUESTION	COMPLAINT AGAINST GOD'S RESCUE
14: 2-3.....	What did they want? .....	They wanted to be delivered.
14: 15-16.....	How was God going to rescue them?.....	By leading them across the Red Sea.
15: 23-24.....	What was the problem? .....	Water - The people grumbled
16: 2-3 .....	What was the grumble? .....	No meat to eat.
17: 1-2.....	What was the grumble? .....	No water
32: 1.....	What was the grumble? .....	They wanted a new god.

The Children of Israel, like the old man of our story wanted to be delivered, but they wanted everything to be done in their way and according to their plan. Thankfully, our all-knowing God does not alter His plans of salvation to please fickle humanity. He remains constant, yesterday, today, forever. Because of that consistency, we know we are safe when we go through the waters to safety.

### THIRST FOR AN ANSWER:

1. What is the way that people can be saved? ..... Through Jesus Christ as their Savior from sin.
2. What are some of the ways people WANT to be saved?
  - a. Government
  - b. by remaking God
  - c. through technology
3. Can any of these organizations save us? .....  YES  NO

**ISAIAH 55:1 "COME, ALL YOU WHO ARE THIRSTY, COME TO THE WATERS  
GROUP BIBLE STUDIES - TEACHER'S PACKET - LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES**

**2. SCRIPTURE SEARCH - DEEP DRINKING** - As we look at God's delivering waters, we have to turn to Exodus 14: 9-28. Read the questions below and answer the questions:

**QUESTION**

- 14: 9 What was the danger? .....The Israelites were trapped between the Sea and Pharaoh.
- v. 10 How did the Israelites react? ..... They complained.
- v. 12 What was Moses' reaction?..... He told them to stand firm.
- v. 15 What were God's orders?.....To quit crying and get moving.

**QUESTION**.....

How might this scenario be repeated today?

- a. Name a danger that we could be in?.....Job security/health/etc.
- b. What is our normal reaction?..... To complain about how bad we have it.
- c. What might human advice be..... Things will work out.
- d. What does God say? .....Try your best to work it out, and trust that I can deliver you.

**THOUGHT & ILLUSTRATION:** Of course, it's very hard for the world to believe that God can deliver us. That's why it has made a practice of trying to minimize God's impact on our lives. I was told the story of a teacher who was doing her best to mock the miracles of the Bible. She said, "Remember when the Children of Israel crossed the Red Sea? We know this body of water was only 6 inches deep." Immediately, from the back of the room, a Christian boy called out: "Thank God for the miracle!" The upset teacher asked, "What miracle?" "Well," explained the boy, "I think it's a great miracle that the Lord could drown the whole Egyptian army in just 6 inches of water!"

That boy had the right idea. It wasn't necessary for him to completely understand how God might accomplish His deliverance; he was just content that God would keep His promises. When we have the faith of a little child, we can have the same confidence that God will give us DELIVERING WATERS.

What are the DELIVERING WATERS that God might send:

- A. When a person is sick?.....Healing or Death
- B. When you lose a job?.....An opportunity for growth.
- C. In times of inclement weather?.....Spiritual trust that He knows what is best.
- D. When a loved one dies?.....The knowledge of a future reunion in heaven.

Is there any DELIVERING WATERS when an unbeliever dies? \_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO

Is it possible that most of you said "No". Think about this. Is it possible that God's last act of love for a person who doesn't want a Savior, is to give him an eternity without the Lord?

**SHARING THE SAV(I)OR (If you have time in your lesson or wish to work at home)**

Do you know a person who feels that the Lord has forsaken them? Write their name here: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you send them a card to show them that God cares? \_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO

Will you keep them in your prayers for this coming WEEK MONTH YEAR \_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO

Is there anything more you can do for them? \_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO What? \_\_\_\_\_

**A FINAL STORY:** As Christians we need to remember that God is not limited to our visual horizons. He has a purpose and thought that is far beyond anything that we can conceive. This brief (fictional) story explains how the world would write the miracle at the Red Sea. Moses came to the Sea with the Egyptians behind him, Aaron said to Moses, "I have some good news and some bad news. The good news is the waters will be parted and the land will be dry; so we can walk across safely. The Egyptians will follow and die. Moses, the bad news is you must file an environmental impact report." Don't you think it's better God's way?

**THANKS FOR THE WATERS** Dear Lord, I give thanks that You have said "COME TO THE WATERS". I praise You for giving me waters of deliverance. Grant me grace to show others that You do not let Your people down - but will keep Your promises to take us safely through difficult times. In Jesus' Name. Amen.