

## Crossing the Red Sea

Are you trapped? It seems like every where you look you can see people who think they are trapped. This is also true with churches. By the pressures of the world around us, we sometimes feel we are trapped or caged. The fact is, we are only trapped by ourselves. God is always at work in our lives if we let Him. He will always lead us, He is always there but it is not His will to lead you into a trap. We just have to understand that God doesn't always work in the way "we" think He should.

In Exodus 13:17, we find God guiding the Israelites along a route that lead them around the Philistine country though that was the shortest route. He took them on a longer route where they could avoid fighting the Philistines. God knows our hearts and He also knows who is committed to follow Him. He knew some would stay to fight and some would run back to Egypt. God doesn't want division among His people and He does not set us up in a trap so we can fail. We only get into the traps when we decide our ways are better than His. We can't see tomorrow, but our Lord can. Remember if God does not lead you across the shortest path to your goals, don't give up. Remember to not complain, have faith, trust and follow Him. He can see the end of our journey from the very beginning. He knows the safest route where there aren't any traps.

However, we seem to forget about God when we think we are in a trap. That is what the Israelites did. They found themselves looking at the sea in front of them and the Egyptian army in back of them ready to sweep in for the kill. They thought they were doomed. According to Exodus 14 they thought they were going to die. They forgot about God's powerful hand delivering them from Egypt. Their response was fear, whining, and despairs. Why could they not trust in God. He had already shown them from other experiences that He was able to meet all their needs. The good news is that the same God who met the needs of His people will also meet the needs of His adopted people. This means He will meet the needs you and I have also. We must learn to trust Him and be ready to follow Him wherever He leads. By looking at the faithfulness of God in the past, we can face today's problems as well with a great deal of confidence.

If you still feel trapped, just stand where you are and watch the Lord rescue you. You can rest assured He will. Moses, their leader who was appointed by God, encouraged the people to just watch the wonderful way He would rescue them. Moses had a positive attitude. When it seemed as if they were trapped, Moses called upon God to intervene. This is what Pastors should be doing for their churches also. The church may not be chased by an army, but it can still feel like it is trapped. Churches may feel trapped by finances, growth, division, etc. When we feel trapped we have to do what Moses told the Israelites to do. Stand where you are and watch the Lord at work.

When the Lord shows up, don't just stand there. The Lord told Moses to stop praying and start moving. Sometimes we know what to do, but we pray for more guidance. We use that as an excuse to postpone doing what God wants us to do. When God show you what to do, then that is the right time to start doing it. The Bible tells us the Lord opens the doors, and He shows us which way to go. When He opens the doors He expects us to go through them. He wants to show His great power and His unending love for His people. Remember the next time you find yourself feeling trapped and you are following the Lord, then start praising Him, for a mighty miracle is about to take place.

God Bless You,  
Brother Jimmy