

Exodus: Prelude to a Miracle, 20-34, Word of God Leads the Way

Exodus 14:10 tells us the Jews failed this adversity test in several ways:

1. They “lifted up their eyes.” What this means is that they stood frozen in place, slack jawed, with a disbelieving stare. Problem: Their eyes are on the Egyptians and not on Christ. They have their eyes on the problem, not the Solution.

Hebrews 12:2 - Fix your eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith.

2. “**They became terribly afraid.**” This means that the fear was pandemic and thus spread rapidly throughout the entire nation resulting in mob hysteria. Problem: They react from the emotional complex of sins rather than respond by exercising faith in the God of Israel.

2 Timothy 1:7 - God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power and love and rational thought.

3. “**They cried out in panic.**” This is the expression of emotional breakdown. Screaming in panic does not cycle thought through Broca’s area and thus has no syntax. They couch these emotions in the form of a prayer “*to Jehovah.*” Problem: Prayers prayed out of fellowship are not heard.

Romans 14:23 - ... whatsoever is not from faith is sin.

Psalms 66:18 - If I regard iniquity in my heart [soul’s stream of consciousness] the Lord will not hear me [will not process my prayer].

From this status they then resort to a form of neurosis. Their hysteria leads to projection of the perceived problem upon Moses.

1. It’s not our fault, it’s Moses’ fault.
2. We told you back in Ramses that we didn’t want to do this.
3. The plan of God is obviously not for us to die in the Jornada but to return into slavery in Ramses.

Principle: Cowards are so afraid of dying they never acquire the courage to enjoy living.

In an effort to establish a modicum of decorum, Moses begins to shout orders to the people.

1. “*Do not fear!*” Principle: Order in the soul must precede order in the commonwealth.
2. “*Stand fast!*” Principle: Order among the troops must precede an orderly advance.
3. “*Watch!*” Principle: Orientation to the solution must precede adjustment to the new objective.

These commands imply the use of the faith-rest drill. God is going to do the work but the believer must be able to think under pressure in order to follow His lead.

Faith-rest does not mean to stand fast and never lift a finger. The “*Stand fast!*” mandate was designed to restore order in the ranks. Get organized for action.

These two-million Jews are going to have to march through a corridor of water, one and one-half-miles wide and two miles across, in six hours. It will require of them some faith to do this. If they just sit still then Pharaoh’s army will capture them no later than dawn the next day. Only those who move out at Moses’ command will shoot the gap and get to safety on the other side.

But it takes faith to step into a lake bed and follow a wheel-track between two walls of water. Thus, when we utilize the faith-rest drill, “*standing fast*” speaks of tranquility of soul. You must eventually, after getting organized, move out toward the objective.

Claiming promises establishes the tranquility of soul which is necessary to organize your doctrinal thinking. Doctrinal thinking often leads to action, but that action is in the form of following the guidance of Scripture while God takes care of the details.

For example:

1. If you want a part in the play, you must attend the audition.
2. If you want to pitch the big game you must go out for the team.
3. If you want to sell widgets, you must get a job with a widget company.
4. If you want to get a job you must apply where management is looking for employees.
5. If you want to get to the land of milk and honey, i.e., Santa Fé, then you have to eventually leave Ramses, i.e., Kansas City.