



## DGM Message Title: The Hard Way on Purpose

### Concept: The One Thing You Can Do to Overcome Your Problems

#### Message Summary:

Just like how God lead the Israelites through the wilderness after they left Egypt, sometimes He takes you the difficult way to protect you from yourself. He will set up trials to get us on our knees, get us back to our Bibles, wean us from the world, and make the watching world admit that there is a GOD. Do what you were told to do, and God will fight for you.

#### Scriptural References:

- Exodus 13:17-14:22 NKJV
- Hebrews 11:8 NKJV

#### Key Points:

- During “due diligence” phase of new building planning:
  - The church did a test on the geographical location and soil.
  - Testing results came back and the soil was good to build.
- A year later (2 weeks ago), the same test was done.
  - Found marine clay (very common in the area)
  - Challenge: marine clay expands and contracts with moisture levels
  - Detrimental to the foundation of a building
- Church had 2 options: dig out the clay or treat the clay
- God never promised that this would be easy... just that it would be worth it.
- We will respond to the crisis and emergency!
- The message today will focus on a time when the children of Israel faced a similar problem.

#### Exodus 13:17 NKJV

- In the middle of your storm, remember, all that comes will come to pass.
- Times were good, the people of Israel were happy.
- God intentionally decided that the Israelites were not ready to come into close contact with the Philistines.
  - The Philistines were a powerful, warring nation.
  - The children of Israel had learned how to suffer, but not how to spiritually fight
  - Like many people in the church, today.

- God wanted to teach them some things and train them, first.
- It may have been logical to us for God to lead them by way of the land of the Philistines. And quicker.
  - God will not lead you into anything that He didn't first prepare you for
  - If you are facing it, it must mean God thinks you're ready for it.
  - CHURCH: If Bishop knew about this problem with the clay a year ago, he would have backed out.
- Any blessing before you're ready can become a curse.
- Sometimes God takes us the difficult way to protect us from ourselves.

#### Exodus 13:18 NKJV

- The wilderness first... not because God wasn't strong enough to protect them, but because the people weren't strong enough to trust Him.
- Man says show me first, then I'll trust you. God says trust me first, then I'll show you.
- They started out with discipline...
  - "Everyone has a plan, until they get punched in the mouth." – Mike Tyson

#### Exodus 13:20 NKJV

- In order for God's people to be effective with their weapons, they first had to learn them.
  - The weapon that God wanted to introduce was the "mother of all weapons:" God's presence.

#### Exodus 13:21 NKJV

- God's presence became a daily experience.
- During the day, God was a cloud to help block the heat of the desert sun.
- During the night, He would be a pillar of fire to give them light.
- The light and darkness gave them a freedom of movement.
  - They didn't move based on the natural order of things, but by God's leading.
- God's presence always increases our options.

#### Exodus 13:22 NKJV

- God built the people's confidence day-in and day-out
- Before long, the power of God became the norm in the camp.
- When we daily enter God's presence with praise, God will daily enter our circumstances with power.

#### Exodus 14:1-2 NKJV

- God wanted the Israelites to finally defeat the enemy of the past.

#### Exodus 14:3 NKJV

- When you look your weakest, God will show Himself as the strongest.
- God has a habit of always leading us into situations where He is our only way out.
  - You can have committees and experts... you can pay top dollar to make sure you aren't in a crisis.
  - But somehow, in spite of all of that, God will get you in over your head so that all you can do is look up!

#### Exodus 14:4 NKJV

- CHURCH: People sent letters to the bank, telling them to not lend the church any money. People sent letters to the county to tell them not to let the church build on the land.
- God hardened Pharaoh's heart so that he became crazy enough to pursue the Israelites.
  - Our enemies are not a surprise to God. They are a part of His plan.
  - What you are facing in your life is part of His plan
  - Sometimes God will put a Goliath in your life to help you find the David within you.
  - Without that Goliath, you will never find your that David.
- What was intended to break you will push you forward and promote you.
- God set the Israelites up so that the Egyptians and the watching world would know that He is Lord.
- God will set up trials to get us on our knees, get us back to our Bibles, wean us from the world, and make the watching world admit that there is a GOD.

#### Exodus 14:10 NKJV

- Have you ever finally let out a sigh of relief, thinking that the worst was over, only to look up and see that the enemy is back stronger than ever?

#### Exodus 14:13 NKJV

- Everything worth having is on the other side of fear.
- Fear is a choice.
- Don't be afraid. Stand still. Don't react... don't panic... don't run. Because when you run away from the problem, you just get further from the solution.
- Stand still and SEE the salvation of the LORD!
- We can have it, but only if we see it before we see it.

#### Exodus 14:14 NKJV

- Moses didn't pose a question... he said they SHALL hold their peace. It was a command.
- If we stand rightly before God, God will rightly defend us before our enemies.
- Do your part!
  - Stand still, stand firm. And let God be God.

#### Exodus 14:15 NKJV

- Moses got a little nervous.
- God wanted Moses to stop praying and get moving.
  - Prayer is vital and important, but so is action.
  - Do what you were told to do, and God will fight for you.
- GO FORWARD
- We will get to the other side of this. We will get through this.
- Moses gave them clear steps to take.

#### Exodus 14:16 NKJV

- The armies were behind them. The sea was in front.
- There were no boats. And they couldn't swim.
- Moses had to get the people walking toward the Red Sea before it parted.

- You have to keep walking in the direction of your deliverance until your vindication comes.
- Hebrews 11:6 NKJV
- God gave the Israelites the type of ground they needed to cross over.
- CHURCH: Whatever ground we need to get to the other side, God will provide it.
- If Moses didn't stretch out what was in his hand, God wouldn't release the strength that was in His hand.

Exodus 14:21 NKJV

- CHURCH: Today, we will take what is in our hand (offering envelopes) and stretch it out over the new church campaign.
- "The devil whispers, 'You can't withstand the storm.' The Warrior replied, 'I AM the storm!'"
- The Lord peeled the sea back... when they did their part, He did His.
- God made the impossible possible.

Exodus 14:22 NKJV

- God gave the Israelites a clear path to get to the other side.
- CHURCH: As you stretch out your hand to help God's house, God will stretch out His hand to help your house.