

Sermon Reflections

The Look of Faith (Exodus 13:17-14:14)

Summary:

Faith looks away from yourself and your circumstances, and looks instead to a bigger God. When you look around what do you see? What are you looking at? Look with faith to a big God.

1. Follow His Guidance (Ex 13:17-22)

- Why did God lead the Israelites on an indirect route? How does this reveal God's care and compassion for His people?
- Describe a time, perhaps earlier in your faith, when you were prone to resist God's guidance? What were the circumstances? What truths in this passage remind you that His way is best?
- According to this passage, how did the pillar of fire and cloud benefit the Israelites on their journey? How does this remind you of God's continuous care and provision for us as believers?
- How are we guided by God today? Why is the Word of God an even better/complete guide than the "pillars" that guided God's people in the wilderness.

2. Trust His Plan (Ex 14:1-9)

- Describe God's plan outlined in this passage (vv. 1-4). (Who is involved? What is the ultimate purpose of His plan?)
- As you consider how God orchestrates every detail of His plan, which of His attributes come to mind? Why?
- List some of the vulnerabilities that the Israelites faced while wandering near the sea? What might have been helpful for them to remember during this situation? What are some things that you reflect on about God that helps you to trust Him in the midst of difficulty?
- How has God grown you by taking you through a difficult trial? How has this impacted your faith? In what way has this trial helped you to see that truly "God works everything for good" (Rom 8:28)?

3. Rest in His Work Alone (Ex 14:10-14)

- Why are the Israelites filled with fear? How do they respond? List each point of contention that the Israelites had with Moses and describe why each of their complaints was based on fear rather than faith in God.
- Describe a time when you struggled with anxiety in the midst of a trial or difficult situation? How did God help you overcome this? List scriptures that provided comfort.
- Describe what Moses communicated to the Israelites in v. 13. What is meant by: "See the Salvation of the Lord"? How would you restate this in your own words?