

But God

Week 1 – Crossing the Red Sea, Exodus 14

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Have you ever been in a situation where the only answer was going to require an intervention from God?

A “but God” moment.

Maybe it’s a physical situation. Right now you or a loved one might be facing sickness.

Maybe it’s a financial situation. Right now you may be facing financial hardship.

Maybe it’s a relational situation. Right now you may be facing deep relational tension.

Maybe it’s an old addiction. Right now you or a loved one might be facing a dangerous addiction.

Look up “but God” in the Bible.

Psalms 86:15

But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.

Jonah 2:6

To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever. But you, O LORD my God, brought my life up from the pit.

Acts 2:24

But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

I want to go to one “but God” moment today.

Exodus 14:10-14

10 When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD. 11 They said to Moses, “Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? 12 Is not this what we said to you in Egypt: ‘Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.”

- Who are the Israelites?
 - They are a people loved by God who have made many mistakes. God’s love for them is not based on their perfection, power or intelligence. They are a people full of inadequacies, mistakes and failures.
- What is the context of this book?
 - The Israelites are recently released slaves. For 400 years they have felt pain, suffering and the shame of building a nation that works to despise them. They were not rescued by their own strength. All of the saving work was done by God. God was showing both the Egyptians and the Israelites the true depravity and

cruelty of the gods of Egypt. In reality all who lived in the land of Egypt were slaves of cruelty and hate.

- What is the context of this verse?
 - God has taken them out of Egypt and now He begins taking Egypt out of them. Fear has overwhelmed the Israelites. They are so afraid of dying in the desert they would rather become slaves again. They have seen God do some amazing things but still don't trust him.
- What happens?

Exodus 14:13-14

13 And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. 14 The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent."

- God displayed his love again. He opened the sea so the Israelites could pass and closed upon the Egyptians.
- Today you might be encamped by addiction, financial hardship, sickness and broken relationships. Let me say, God loves to show off his love!

Prayer of Release:

I want to teach you a prayer of release. I will often pray and symbolically hold out my hands in clenched tight fists, holding on to the things that need a "but God" intervention. In prayer I open up my hands and give it over to Him.

Let's do this together!

I want you to pause and think of what has trapped you. Hang on to them and hold your hands out. I want to pray with you and for you. I want you to open your hands and give it over to God. The fight is His!

How do we wait well?

Seize this season.

- Choose to spend more time in God's good news rather than in man's news.
- Continually and consistently remind others of the promises of God.
- Have regular accountability with a few people.
- Pray.
- Exercise.
- Eat well.

Where is Jesus in this?

He is preparing heaven for you and preparing you for heaven.

Next Steps:

- If God used this to speak to you share this message with your friends!
- If God is working in your heart please message us or click the link to our response card.
(Zach will have screen shots.)