

SERMON TITLE: IMPOSSIBLE SITUATIONS**TEXT: EXODUS 14****INTRODUCTION.**

After 400 years of slavery in Egypt, God rescued his people. He prepared Moses to lead the Israelites back to the Promised Land. Last week, we saw how and why God did not lead Israel on a straight-line path from Egypt to Canaan. As the Exodus continues, the Israelites find themselves in an impossible situation. They are trapped between Pharaoh's army and the Red Sea. What happens next is relevant for us today. Referring to the experience of Israel during the Exodus, 1 Corinthians 10 says, "these things occurred as examples to us." This incident has something to teach us about God's character and purpose, and how to live as his people today.

DISCUSSION.

If there was ever a time when you felt hopelessly trapped, how did you respond? What would you do differently today?

EXAMINATION.

vv.1-4 See if you can find a map that suggests where this incident took place.

- The test doesn't tell us, but how do you think the Israelites reacted to this direction?
- What reason did the LORD give for having Israel encamp by the sea?
- Why would God harden Pharaoh's heart? Does that mean Pharaoh had no free will?

vv.5-9 What is Pharaoh's stated motive for changing his mind?

- Do the Egyptian forces seem to be a sufficient size to pursue Israel? Why or why not?

vv.10-14 Israel is understandable fearful. What do you make of the fact that they cried out to God but complained to Moses?

- Why does the Israelite complaint about "no graves in Egypt" sound like sarcasm?
- Moses' response is very God-centered and trusting. On what basis could he say, "The Egyptians you see today you will never see again"?

Vv.15-20 Does it sound like the LORD is rebuking Moses? Why or why not?

- Several times in this chapter, the LORD talks about “gaining glory”. The Hebrew word refers to honor, majesty, the weight of importance. How will this incident bring that?
- Is the “angel of God” the same as the “angel of the LORD” (Ex. 3:2), or another angel, or is it a reference to the pillar of cloud?

Vv.21-31 Read the text closely and describe the timing of all that happened.

APPLICATION.

- From the sermon, list the three reasons for impossible situations:
 - God put you there _____
 - This may not be about _____
 - Your job might just be to say _____
- Which of these reasons do you find the most challenging and why?
- Can you think of a time when God was glorified through a difficult time in your life?
- Fact: What is the key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?