

4 Ways out of a tight spot

Opening Text: Exodus 14:10-16

Just about the time God's people thought that they had broken free, there was one last attack, one last manoeuvre: 600 hundred of pharaoh's chariots came from behind, hot on their heels and cornered them against the Red sea. We can say that they were "in a tight spot".

The situation looked impossible from every angle. To make matters worse God's people spoke against their leader Moses. This was the perfect storm and any leader's worst case scenario.

In verse 10b we read, ... *"the children of Israel cried out to the Lord."* However, look at verse 15: *"And the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me?" ...*

Just when things couldn't get any worse, God says, *"Why do you cry out to Me"?*

Did this mean that God had abandoned them? Or was it perhaps that God was about to teach them one of the most powerful lessons on how to deal with impossible situations? believe so!

"Why do you cry out to Me?"

God was pointing to things that Moses could do, things that he had been anointed and empowered to do. Here's 4 things we can do to get out of a tight spot:

1. Listen

Before any action or any communication, Moses should have listened. In verse 13 Moses told the people to *"stand still"* but God's word for the situation was, according to verse 15, to *"go forward"*.

We must listen to what God is saying. Get His '*rhema*' word.

2. Speak

God told Moses to speak to the Children of Israel His word. God's *rhema* word for the situation was "go forward". In a tight spot, we must speak His word, what God has said about the situation.

Moses had trouble speaking but God had empowered him in this area:

Exodus 4:12 *"Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say."*

God's word always works. In this situation going forward meant walking right into the middle of the sea – however, God knows how to part the seas for us!

In an attack, in a tight spot, hear what God says and then be diligent to speak in line with what He said.

3. Move

They expected God to move but they were the ones who needed to move. In a tight spot, steps of faith are always required. God will move with those that move by faith.

In a tight spot, the way is always forward never backward:

Hebrews 10:38 - *Now the just shall live by faith; but if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.*"

We are never a retreating army. We occupy, we don't retreat. We are to go forward in the boldness that faith affords.

4. Stretch

V.16 "*Lift up your rod and stretch out your hand and divide it*"

- Lifting up the rod was symbolic of exercising authority. That rod was also a symbol of God's power: there were so many signs and wonders done through that rod.

God had endued Moses with authority and power. That is why He asked him: "*why do you cry out to Me?*"

As New Testament people, God has also given us authority and endued us with power from on high. He has given us spiritual gifts.

- "Stretch out your hand" – In the face of an attack we can resign ourselves and say '*well its all in God's hands*' or we can acknowledge what is already in our hands!

Exodus 4:2-3 2 *So the Lord said to him, "What is that in your hand?" He said, "A rod. 3 And He said, "Cast it on the ground." So he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it.*

Stretch your hand! Release your faith for the supernatural. We need to acknowledge what we have in our hands, the full potential of what God has given us, about what makes us unusual people!

Exodus 4:13 - *But he said, "O my Lord, please send by the hand of whomever else You may send."*

No. it is your hand that God wants to use! See to it!

Exodus 4:21 - *And the Lord said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt, see that you do all those wonders before Pharaoh which I have put in your hand. But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go.*

See that you do the impossible! I have put it in your hands! Stretch your hand: release the power of God!

Acts 19:11 – “*Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul*” ...

We need to grow in the realisation of what has already been given to us.

- Stretch out your hand over the seas and divide it

Divide the sea? Isn't that something only God can do? Yes, but He invites to participate in His miracles.

Why do you cry out to Me? In a tight spot God invites us to listen, speak, move, stretch... and expect the manifestation.

Conclusion

Sometimes we cry out to God for something that He has already empowered us, or equipped us, or commissioned us to do. We need to realise and acknowledge what He has already given us and put in our hand.

In the days of Gideon the Bible also says that the people cried out to the Lord (Judges 6:7). Here's what God said to Gideon: “*go in this might of your yours and you shall save Israel from the hand of the midianites.*” (Judges 6:14). “Might of yours”? Gideon at first didn't understand what God had already given him.

We can't have a passive faith. We need to speak in faith, move in faith and stretch our hand.