

July 27, 2025 Sunday Morning Worship Sermon

"Reach Out to the Sea " Pastor Takaaki Inoue
Exodus 14:1-4, 11-16, I Corinthians 15:51-58

① 【What God does and what man does are two different things】

The Israelites leave Egypt for the Promised Land. Starting from a town called Rameses in Egypt, they go south and camp at a place called Succoth. From there, they go north again and camp at Baal Tzephon, facing the Sea of Reeds, retracing their steps back the way they came. When Pharaoh learned of this, he thought the Israelites were lost in the wilderness and came after them. With the Sea of Reeds in front of them and the Egyptian army behind them, Israel was completely caught in the middle, unable to move. But it was all God's plan.

● There is an old Irish proverb that says, "When God closes one door, He opens another." When one possibility closes in front of us, we tend to stop and regret only that one lost possibility, but when one door closes, we want to believe that God is preparing another door.

But the people were very afraid and cried out to God, saying to Moses, "Did you bring us out because there is no tomb in Egypt? ... 'Leave us alone in Egypt, for we have no graves there,' he said. Did we not say, 'Leave us alone in Egypt, for it is better to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness'" (13:11). (Ibid. 13:11). He said, "This is all your fault, O Moses. Those who refuse to see God blame others. People who do not see God blame others, because they are surrounded by nothing but people.

So Moses says to the people, "Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid. Be calm and see the salvation of the Lord that is coming for you today. You see the Egyptians today, but you will never see them again, not forever. The Lord will fight for you. You shall be quiet." (Ibid. 13:13-14) He told you to remain calm and trust in what God would do. Similar words are found in several places in the Bible. For example, in the book of Isaiah, King Ahaz was so preoccupied with the prospect of an invasion by the allied armies that he was rushing around trying to do this and do that, Isaiah said, "Be calm and be still. Do not be afraid" (Isaiah 7:4). (Isaiah 7:4). In Chronicles, King Josaphat prays, "We do not have the strength to meet this great army that is coming against us; we do not know what to do, but we can only look to you" (20:12). (20:12). The Spirit of the Lord descended on him and said, "Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid. This is not your battle, but God's battle. You don't have to fight. Stand firm and see the Lord save you." (Chronicles 20:15). When we look at it this way, we realize that what God does and what man does are two different things. However, human beings fail because they try to do what God does and do not do what human beings must do.

② 【What humans must do】

So what is it that man must do? God commands Moses. God commands Moses, "Command the people of Israel to depart. Lift up your staffs high, stretch out your hands toward the sea, and divide the sea in two. (Ibid. 13:15-16) God will drive away the problems and enemies in front of us. What we need to do is (1) "depart" and (2) "stretch out our hands toward the sea. To stretch out our hands implies a posture of prayer. Neither Moses himself nor his staff has the magical power to split the sea in two. God divides the sea, and prayer is necessary to believe in Him. You must pray, believe in God, and move forward. Then the sea will retreat and the mountains will move.

●Pastor Yasuro Enomoto writes The important thing for a life of faith is to make a sharp distinction between God's affairs and my affairs. When the guard asked me what I should do to help my family get saved, I didn't tell him to evangelize my family. ...You must believe in the Lord Jesus, and that is your portion. It is God's doing that your family will be saved. That's not what we do, and we all stumble because we do a lousy job of trying to lead our families to God." He continued, "Your first step is to believe in Jesus, to spend your days living in the true joy of the Lord Jesus Christ. Then God will do His work."

In the recent House of Councillors election, many party members who spoke out against foreigners were elected. I thought to myself, "These are difficult times we are living in. When times become unstable, there are always people who try to find the bad guys or the cause of the instability.

●When I study mental disabilities, I find that there are some common "cognitive distortions" among patients. (1) To be black-and-white oriented. (Thinking in terms of good or evil, friend or foe, success or failure. (3) Narrow-mindedness. (4) Exaggerating things (misperception). This is a very similar thing. It is similar to this. It may be that more and more people are unable to endure the unstable and painful situation. The power to accept something for which there is no answer and to endure a halfway state is called "negative capability. It is said that this ability is cultivated by (1) eye drops, (2) daily medicines, and (3) oral medicines. Eye drops are to know that "there is One who is always watching over you. Niyaku means to believe that "things will get better as the days go by. Mouthwash is to have someone always say, "It will be all right.

This is what God always tells us. When people lose faith in their current situation, they flail around, thinking "I have to do this, I have to do that," and try to manipulate others around them. This is a form of unbelief. In short, we need the power to believe. We need to have faith in people, faith in God, faith in our current situation, and faith in the future. To do this, first sit down, be quiet and calm, and pray. The power to believe comes from God in proportion to your prayer.