

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Scripture used: Exodus 14:10-13

### OVERVIEW

This week Pastor Hurmon started us on the first in a series of six sermons on "What's Next?" Transition brings opportunity, and we will grow in our faith if we wholeheartedly engage with the opportunity instead of shying away from it.

### KEY POINTS

**Big Idea: Exodus is an iconic story of God's protection during the peril of transition.**

As the Jews are fleeing Egypt and Pharaoh's army is giving them furious chase, they cannot foresee the parting of the Red Sea and their ultimately successful escape. Whenever the people of God feel abandoned, this story reminds us that God is **with** us and **for** us.

Each of us has an individual Exodus story. We would not be here except for our own personal Exodus moment.

- 1) **The Exodus story is one of transition.** The Jews are slaves transitioning from oppression to freedom. They are also a ragtag band of tribes coming together to form a strong and vibrant nation.
- 2) **There are two types of transition.** Sometimes we choose transition; other times it chooses us! In the first category: starting a new job; joining a new team; a geographical relocation; having a child through pregnancy & birth, or adoption; joining the military; leaving home for college; starting a business; committing to a relationship & marriage. In the second category: the surprises of growing up and aging; health and illness; transitioning from your parents funding you and giving you advice to your funding them and giving them advice.
- 3) **Transition is a vulnerable moment.** We can emerge as wiser individuals who harnessed a redemptive moment; or our faith and trust in God can unravel. Faith is connected to an external event and circumstance. Transition is an internal transformation leading to becoming a different, more mature person. You can experience change without transition, as when - for instance - you have broken up with a romantic interest but remain obsessed with him or her. Similarly, the Jews were out of slavery but slavery was far from completely out of them.
- 4) **The middle passage of transition is most delicate.** Transition has a beginning, middle, and end. The end is a new beginning - getting to the other side. But the middle is the time of maximum anxiety. Often we're unaware that we're struggling with transition. We don't have x-ray vision like Superman - we can see our house, but not *inside* our house. We can see the lives of others but cannot always see deeply *inside* their lives. A new beginning is also an ending, the loss of something. The end of slavery was exciting for the Jews, but also fraught with peril, trouble, panic, anger, and blame. Among the toughest transitions is one from wartime veteran to civilian life. Faith gives many veterans a sense of divine help, of hope in things eternal such as God's unchanging and redeeming love.

### DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** Pastor Hurmon reminds us that we can all too easily be passive objects in times of transition. It is the purposeful act of deliberately engaging with the transition, all with the

knowledge of God's attentive help, that empowers us through this time of change. Can you identify such a successful transition in your past?

- 2) **UNDERSTAND** The Jews were close to complete panic and blamed Moses (instead of looking into themselves). Do we have a propensity to do the same as we face serious transitions? How can we change that?
- 3) **DO & PRAY** What is your personal Exodus moment? What did you learn from it? What would you do differently? What do you want to ask God as you will face your next - expected or unexpected - transition? Can you invite others to visit our church as they are going through transitions? Can you encourage others to serve in unique ways that suit them?