GOD WILL MAKE A WAY OUT

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Text: Exodus 14

Have you ever felt trapped by your problems? When you lay down at night does your worries get in bed with you? Do you tell yourself, "If I can get some sleep things will look better tomorrow" only to find that the same situations are waiting on you when you awake?

■ Max Lucado writes in his book *Six Hours One Friday*, "Sleep, for many, is not a robber but a refuge - eight hours of relief for our wounded souls.

And if you are kept awake, it's not by counting your fingers but by counting your debts, tasks or even your tears. You're tired. You're weary. Weary of being slapped by the waves of broken dreams. Weary of being stepped on and run over in the endless marathon to the top. Weary of trusting in someone only to have that trust returned in an envelope with no return address. Weary of staring into the future and seeing only futility." (28-9)

The strength of futility is its apparent finality. We begin to believe that things will never change. We need someone to assure us that there is hope. In this timeless story of the Red Sea crossing we find that, with God, there's always hope and it's always too early to give up. Listen once again to this story and hear one more time the promise of God – God will always make a way out.

I. GOD WILL MAKE A WAY OUT WHEN YOUR BACK IS AGAINST THE WALL (vv. 1-10).

A. Satan wants you to believe that there's no way out and the walls are closing in (v. 3).

When you have done everything right and you still end up between a rock and a hard place, what does it mean.

B. He wants you to believe that he will overcome you (v. 9).

C. The enemy wants fear to blind you vision of faith (v.10).

When the children of Israel **saw** the Egyptians "they were very afraid. Satan will box you in an attempt to keep your eyes of the Lord.

D. So, what do you do when there's no where to go'? You continue to trust!

Elizabeth Elliot writes, "True faith goes into operation when there are no answers.

II. GOD WILL MAKE A WAY OUT WHEN YOUR PROBLEM IS BIGGER THAT YOU (vv. 11-20).

A. Satan would have you to believe there's no escaping your problems (vv. 11-12).

■ One day Linus and Charlie Brown are walking along and chatting with one another. Linus says, "I don't like to face problems head on. I think the best way to solve problems is to avoid them. In fact, this is a distinct philosophy of mine. No problem is so big or so complicated that it can't be run away from!" --James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, 1988) p. 16.

Why would God deliver His children and then allow them to be plagued by the enemy?

B. God wants you to know the battle is His (vv. 13-14).

Every problem we face is an opportunity to see God work.

The victory is obtained by going forward with the Lord (vv. 15-20).

III. GOD WILL MAKE A WAY OUT EVEN IF HE HAS TO TAKE YOU THROUGH THE MIDDLE IMPOSSIBILITY (vv. 21-31).

A. God always points us in the direction of impossibility (vv. 16 & 21).

B. God always makes us walk our way through our problems (vv. 22-25).

C. God always uses that which blesses us to destroy the enemy -- His power.

D. God is always glorified in the middle of impossibility (vv. 30-31).

George Muller said, "Faith does not operate in the realm of the possible. There is no glory for God in that which is humanly possible. Faith begins where man's power ends." (Rowell, 60)

CONCLUSION

If you want a wonderful experience, take your New Testament and use a concordance to look up the two little words, "but God." See how many times human resources have been brought to an utter end; despair has gripped the heart and pessimism and gloom has settled upon a people; and there is nothing that can be done. Then see how the Spirit of God writes in luminous letters, "But God," and the whole situation changes into victory.

-- Ray C. Stedman, Man of Faith. Christianity Today, Vol. 30, no. 5.