

2022 Theme - Extraordinary God + Ordinary People = Transformed Lives

Sermon Series - Transformed Leadership (Moses)

Sermon Title - Transformed Leadership by Reflection and Worship

Sermon Text - Exodus - Exodus 15:1-21

Sermon Presenter - Pastor Larry

Full Sermon Notes

“You freed the captives then, You’re freeing hearts right now You are the same God”

Praise The Lord! Just as God set the Children of Israel free from their slavery to Egypt, He can set you and me free from our bondage to sin and from being trapped and tangled in the things of this world! And I’m not just talking about material things, I’m talking about wrong attitudes, temperaments, priorities, desires, jealousies, and the list goes on. But we worship and sing praises because we’ve been set free and are being set free daily as we keep our eyes on Jesus, The One who gave His life to redeem us, to rescue, to reconcile, to reclaim a relationship with us! Just as the Israelites stood on the banks of the sea and reflected on all that God had done to set them free and worshiped, let us today reflect on all that God has done to set us free and let us worship! Let’s pray!

Which comes first worship or reflection? Either! We worship and it causes reflection on what God has done! We reflect on what God has done and it causes worship!! Either is fine and proper and leads us to a good place in our lives and transforms our ability to lead with our very lives! Why do I say that? Because confidence to lead comes when we look back at what God has already done on our behalf and we have no reason to think God would not continue to be faithful to keep His promises to us! Can you imagine the scene as the Israelites stood on the banks of the sea in awe of what God had just done and reflecting on everything else God had done to free them from their slavery? Remember this verse from last week?

Exodus 14:31 And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

They then erupted into song! So they began with reflection! They saw what God had done and they worshiped! I wish we had an audio recording of the song. We don’t, but we do have the lyrics and they will guide our message today. This song could even be used as a guide when writing worship songs. We’ll read the song and then look at the elements of the song and what they mean to our lives and our leadership. Our passage is Exodus 15:1-21...

Exodus 15:1 Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD: “I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. Both horse and driver he has hurled into the sea.

Exodus 15:2 “The LORD is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him.

Exodus 15:3 The LORD is a warrior; the LORD is his name.

Exodus 15:4 Pharaoh’s chariots and his army he has hurled into the sea. The best of Pharaoh’s officers are drowned in the Red Sea.

Exodus 15:5 The deep waters have covered them; they sank to the depths like a stone.

Exodus 15:6 Your right hand, LORD, was majestic in power. Your right hand, LORD, shattered the enemy.

Exodus 15:7 “In the greatness of your majesty you threw down those who opposed you. You unleashed your burning anger; it consumed them like stubble.

Exodus 15:8 By the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up. The surging waters stood up like a wall; the deep waters congealed in the heart of the sea.

Exodus 15:9 The enemy boasted, ‘I will pursue, I will overtake them. I will divide the spoils; I will gorge myself on them. I will draw my sword and my hand will destroy them.’

Exodus 15:10 But you blew with your breath, and the sea covered them. They sank like lead in the mighty waters.

Exodus 15:11 Who among the gods is like you, LORD? Who is like you— majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?

Exodus 15:12 “You stretch out your right hand, and the earth swallows your enemies.

Exodus 15:13 In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling.

Exodus 15:14 The nations will hear and tremble; anguish will grip the people of Philistia.

Exodus 15:15 The chiefs of Edom will be terrified, the leaders of Moab will be seized with trembling, the people of Canaan will melt away;

Exodus 15:16 terror and dread will fall on them. By the power of your arm they will be as still as a stone— until your people pass by, LORD, until the people you bought pass by.

Exodus 15:17 You will bring them in and plant them on the mountain of your inheritance— the place, LORD, you made for your dwelling, the sanctuary, Lord, your hands established.

Exodus 15:18 “The LORD reigns for ever and ever.”

Exodus 15:19 When Pharaoh’s horses, chariots and horsemen went into the sea, the LORD brought the waters of the sea back over them, but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground.

Exodus 15:20 Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron’s sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women followed her, with timbrels and dancing.

Exodus 15:21 Miriam sang to them: “Sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. Both horse and driver he has hurled into the sea.”

Song Element #1 - Who God is

He is Highly Exalted

Exodus 15:1 Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD: “I will sing to the LORD, for he is *highly exalted*.”

The song starts out with the fact that God is highly exalted and states later that we are to exalt Him! He is like no other! He is above all others! He is to be exalted because He is worthy of exaltation! The Psalmist put it this way...

Psalm 145:1 I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.

Psalms 145:2 Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.

Psalms 145:3 Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.

Psalms 145:4 One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.

Psalms 145:5 They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty— and I will meditate on your wonderful works.

Psalms 145:6 They tell of the power of your awesome works— and I will proclaim your great deeds.

Psalms 145:7 They celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

Psalms 145:8 The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.

And while our Lord is gracious and compassionate and slow to anger and rich in love, He is a fierce defender of His children and He will fight for them. In fact our song tells us that...

He is a Warrior

Exodus 15:3 The LORD is *a warrior*; *the LORD* is his name.

The LORD is a warrior and not just any warrior! He is Yahweh God, the One True Creator God, God Almighty, and He fights for His children! This is a theme in the Old Testament! We see it again in Deuteronomy...

Deuteronomy 20:1 When you go to war against your enemies and see horses and chariots and an army greater than yours, do not be afraid of them, because the LORD your God, who brought you up out of Egypt, will be with you.

Deuteronomy 20:2 When you are about to go into battle, the priest shall come forward and address the army.

Deuteronomy 20:3 He shall say: "Hear, Israel: Today you are going into battle against your enemies. Do not be fainthearted or afraid; do not panic or be terrified by them.

Deuteronomy 20:4 For the LORD your God is the one who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory."

The Children of Israel needed to be constantly reminded of God's work on their behalf in the past and that He could still be trusted. In the same way we need to be reminded that just as God fought for the Children of Israel, He fights for those who have accepted Jesus as their Savior for they are the Children of God!

Romans 8:14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.

Romans 8:15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

Romans 8:16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

Romans 8:17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Romans 8:18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

Our song also says...

He is Powerful

Exodus 15:6 Your right hand, LORD, was majestic in power.

The Psalmist once again weighs in...

Psalm 147:5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.

Then: God was majestic in His power over the Egyptians. They were prideful and mocked God and His people. But God was victorious in the end, along with His people.

Now: God is still majestic in His power and desires to use His power in your life and leadership! He still fights for His children! Listen to these verses from The New Testament that speak so powerfully of this...

1 John 4:4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

Ephesians 3:20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,

Ephesians 3:21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Does that encourage anyone in this room today? Our song goes on to say this about who God is...

He is majestic in holiness, glory and working wonders

Exodus 15:11 Who among the gods is like you, LORD? Who is like you— majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?

He is majestic in holiness! This is what sets our Lord apart from all other supposed gods! He is holy, righteous, just and fair! The Psalmist puts it this way...

Psalm 99:9 Exalt the LORD our God and worship at his holy mountain, for the LORD our God is holy.

And in Isaiah we read...

Isaiah 5:16 But the LORD Almighty will be exalted by his justice, and the holy God will be proved holy by his righteous acts.

Isaiah points out that the Holy God will be proved holy by His righteous acts! We see this in Moses' song because it sings of what God had done to free the people from the evil oppression of the Pharaoh and the Egyptians. Remember God had given them ample chances to change their mind and do what was right and let the people go, but they refused, so God acted justly. It's the second element of our song...

Song Element #2 - What God has done

Exodus 15:1b...Both horse and driver he has hurled into the sea.

Exodus 15:4 Pharaoh's chariots and his army he has hurled into the sea. The best of Pharaoh's officers are drowned in the Red Sea.

Exodus 15:5 The deep waters have covered them; they sank to the depths like a stone.

Exodus 15:6 Your right hand, LORD, was majestic in power. Your right hand, LORD, shattered the enemy.

Exodus 15:7 "In the greatness of your majesty you threw down those who opposed you. You unleashed your burning anger; it consumed them like stubble.

Exodus 15:8 By the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up. The surging waters stood up like a wall; the deep waters congealed in the heart of the sea.

Exodus 15:10 But you blew with your breath, and the sea covered them. They sank like lead in the mighty waters

Exodus 15:12 "You stretch out your right hand, and the earth swallows your enemies.

The Pharaoh and his fellow oppressors had enslaved the people for many years. They had mistreated, murdered and robbed the Hebrew people of their dignity and their freedom, but they couldn't overpower their God Almighty! Our song declares powerfully what God did to acquire the Israelites freedom. But that was then! What about now? What has God done in your life to set you free from your bondage to sin? What has God done to provide for you in your life? What miracles has God worked in your circumstances so that you could continue to live His purpose for your life? How has God helped you overcome when it looked like there was no way out, no way up, and no way forward? The Psalmist wrote a song about this...

Psalm 61:1 Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer.

Psalm 61:2 From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

Psalm 61:3 For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe.

Psalm 61:4 I long to dwell in your tent forever and take refuge in the shelter of your wings.

Notice the Psalmist sings that his heart is growing faint, and he calls out to the Lord and asks Him to lead him to the rock that is higher! He then reflects how God had been his refuge in the past and a strong tower against the foe! In other words, he counts his blessings from the past

and longs for God to allow him to once again dwell in His tent and take refuge in the shelter of His wings! One of the most important ways we can overcome our enemies is by reflecting on God's work in our lives in the past and worshiping God for that and trusting Him to continue to be faithful! And did you know there was a song written in the 1800's by Johnson Oatman Jr. that speaks of this perfectly. Here's the lyrics...

When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed, When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name them one by one, And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

Chorus:

Count your blessings, name them one by one; Count your blessings, see what God hath done;
Count your blessings, name them one by one; Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.

Are you ever burdened with a load of care? Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?
Count your many blessings, ev'ry doubt will fly, And you will be singing as the days go by.

Chorus:

Count your blessings, name them one by one; Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.

When you look at others with their lands and gold, Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold;
Count your many blessings, money cannot buy Your reward in heaven, nor your home on high.

Chorus:

Count your blessings, name them one by one; Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.

So, amid the conflict, whether great or small, Do not be discouraged, God is over all;
Count your many blessings, angels will attend, Help and comfort give you to your journey's end.

Chorus:

Count your blessings, name them one by one; Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.

Baptist Hymnal, 1991

Our song has told us who God is and what God had done on behalf of the Children of Israel, but something happened when they stepped out on faith and followed God's instructions given through Moses. They discover...

Song Element #3 - What God had become

Exodus 15:2 "The LORD is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation. He is my God..."

We know from our text that Moses and the people sang this song so why does it say “The LORD is my strength and not “our strength?” I believe this shows that while the hymn they were singing was a corporate song, a congregational song, to be sung together, it had personal implications for the individuals who were singing the song. Just like on Sundays when we worship through song as a congregation. It’s wonderful to sing together. Paul said this...

Ephesians 5:18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit,

Ephesians 5:19 speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord,

Ephesians 5:20 always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Notice, we do this together, but he says “make music from your heart to the Lord!” Why? Because the Lord is your strength, your defense, He has become your salvation. He is your God and you should praise Him and exalt Him! If you have not allowed Him to be your personal Savior and Lord, then the songs you sing may be pleasing and enjoyable to sing, but you will never experience the Joy of the Lord until you allow Him to become your strength, your defense, your salvation, and your God! The Psalmist sang it this way in one of his songs...

Psalms 27:1 The LORD is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life— of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalms 27:2 When the wicked advance against me to devour me, it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall.

Psalms 27:3 Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.

Do you see how this kind of attitude and understanding will radically transform your confidence to be a Godly leader with your life, your words, your attitude and your actions? And speaking of actions...

Song Element #4 - Our response

Exodus 15:2 ... He is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him.

Our response to who God is, what God has done, and who God has become in our lives should be praise and exaltation of God! I mean how can we not be ushered into a spirit of worship when we reflect on who God is, all that God has done on our behalf, and all that God has become to us? This could be a whole sermon right here! You might love music and singing or playing an instrument unto the Lord in worship and if you do that should be done with great sincerity and passion! The Psalmist said...

Psalms 108:1 My heart, O God, is steadfast; I will sing and make music with all my soul.

Psalms 108:2 Awake, harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn.

But what if you're not a musician? How can you respond? How about with our speech, our attitudes, and our actions? We certainly don't do these things for the purpose of being seen by men, but people can't help but see how we act and hear what we say! And let me just say this to those of us who do love to worship with song and instruments: Do we worship God only at church on Sundays when we are singing and playing an instrument, or do we live our faith in our lives as a form of daily worship to God? God has given us the gift of life, what we do with it is our gift of worship to Him. And let me just say this, the way we treat others, whether we agree or disagree with them speaks loudly! Jesus was very clear that we are to even love our enemies! Sometimes we don't even love our family members, or the members of the family of God! We can sing praises all day long, but God sees our hearts and the world sees our actions! What are they seeing? Do you remember how Jesus treated the people who mocked Him and nailed Him to the cross? He prayed for them! He didn't agree with them, but He loved them and as a result, the Centurion in charge of the Roman soldiers cried out...

Luke 23:47 The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man."

Does the way you live your life turn people towards God or away from Him? Are you praising and exalting God with your life? And of course, no matter how you live your life, there will be people who will reject the Lord. In fact the song of Moses reflects on this fact...

Song Element #5 - The enemies response

Exodus 15:9 The enemy boasted, 'I will pursue, I will overtake them. I will divide the spoils; I will gorge myself on them. I will draw my sword and my hand will destroy them.'

So there will always be those who reject your message no matter how much you love them and try to reach them. I just want to make sure that it's not something I'm doing that turns people away. Of course, no one is perfect, but we should be doing all we can to practice what we preach! And we all know that Satan will boast and brag and threaten with the same words...

'I will pursue, I will overtake them. I will divide the spoils; I will gorge myself on them. I will draw my sword and my hand will destroy them.'

But we don't have to fear his lies! The Psalmist sang a powerful song that helps me when Satan tries to frighten and intimidate me...

Psalm 91:1 Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

Psalm 91:2 I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

Psalm 91:3 Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence.

Psalm 91:4 He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

I'll say it again, "Nothing's getting through to me unless God allows it and if He allows it then He's got some greater kingdom purpose and I trust His heart and His plans for my life!" He is my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust!"

Song Element #6 - What God promises

Exodus 15:13 In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling.

Exodus 15:14 The nations will hear and tremble; anguish will grip the people of Philistia.

Exodus 15:15 The chiefs of Edom will be terrified, the leaders of Moab will be seized with trembling, the people of Canaan will melt away;

Exodus 15:16 terror and dread will fall on them. By the power of your arm they will be as still as a stone— until your people pass by, LORD, until the people you bought pass by.

Exodus 15:17 You will bring them in and plant them on the mountain of your inheritance— the place, LORD, you made for your dwelling, the sanctuary, Lord, your hands established.

Exodus 15:18 "The LORD reigns for ever and ever."

Exodus 15:19 When Pharaoh's horses, chariots and horsemen went into the sea, the LORD brought the waters of the sea back over them, but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground.

Did you notice? He leads the people He has redeemed and in His strength He guides us to His Holy dwelling! This song not only reflected on the works of God in the past but looked ahead to the work God was going to do to protect the children of Israel on their way to the promised land! Don't you know that this kind of faith which sang about God's faithfulness in the past and in the future helped transform Moses and to give him the confidence he needed to continue being a Godly leader? The same applies to us! And don't miss the last part of verse 16...

Exodus 15:... until the people you bought pass by.

The Lord paid a price back then to deliver His people from their slavery and what a price He paid to deliver us from our slavery to sin!

Romans 8:31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Romans 8:32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

Romans 8:33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies.

Romans 8:34 Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

Romans 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

Romans 8:36 As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

Romans 8:37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Romans 8:38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,

Romans 8:39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 9:1 I speak the truth in Christ—I am not lying, my conscience confirms it through the Holy Spirit—

We are getting ready to sing our final song and we are going to practice what we’ve heard today. We are going to reflect on what God has done for us through Jesus’ death on the Cross and we will worship! If you are the parent of a child in Shore Kids who has made a decision to accept Christ and has been baptized, you can go now and get them so they can participate with us in the Lord’s Supper. When you get back you can go ahead and go to one of the tables and get the bread and juice and then go back to your seats and after the invitation song I will lead us to take communion together as a church family. As you are going, I’m just going to point out one last element about our song. There was...

Song Element # 7 - The Chorus

Exodus 15:20 Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron’s sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women followed her, with timbrels and dancing.

Exodus 15:21 Miriam sang to them: “Sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. Both horse and driver he has hurled into the sea.”

That was the first verse we read today! The chorus repeats a theme or important concept of a song. So let me say it again...

“Sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted.”

Let’s pray!

As we sing this final song, feel free to make your way to the tables to get the bread and juice and then return to your seats and I will lead us to take communion in just a few minutes. And if you would like to make a decision today, you may come and pray at the altar or with me or one of our staff members.

Luke 22:14 When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table.

Luke 22:15 And he said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.

Luke 22:16 For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.”

Luke 22:17 After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you.

Luke 22:18 For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

Luke 22:19 And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

Luke 22:20 In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.

Thank You Jesus! Let's sing one last chorus of our song together!