

Sermon Discussion 2/28/2016

Exodus 15:1-21: "When Grace Becomes a Song" by Drew Hunter

Overview

Christians are to be singing people because when God has become our greatest value, the only fitting response is praise. Having been saved by God from the Egyptians through the miraculous dividing of the Red Sea and the wiping out of Egypt's army, Israel responds to God with praise through song. The text of Exodus 15 shows us three things:

- 1) Why we sing
- 2) What we sing
- 3) How we sing

Israel sang because God delivered them from Egypt by His grace. As Christians today, we sing because of a bigger exodus – our exodus from sin through the blood of Jesus Christ, the Passover Lamb.

Quotations

"The Church is the place where the gospel is preached; gospel is good news; good news makes people happy; happy people sing. But then, too, unhappy people may sing to cheer themselves up." (T.H.L. Parker, *John Calvin*, 113)

"The text of a church's faith is not only the wording in its creed but also the gladness in its worship. The gospel demands a carefree spirit. If we aren't going to Hell anymore, if we stand to inherit every blessing Almighty God can think of, if nothing can stand in the way of our restored humanness because it's all ours through the merit of Christ, the friend of sinners – if that can't make us smile, what can?" (Ray Ortlund, Jr., *Isaiah*, 364)

Understanding & Application

- 1) One of the most important principles of Christian singing is that it is responsive in nature. What evidence does the text give us that the Song of Moses is responsive? Hint: look at the beginning and end of the song
- 2) In addition to songs of praise, what other kinds of songs are there? Give an example of another kind of song that has ministered to you and/or revealed to you more of God's nature.
- 3) How do we reconcile the fact that Israel is rejoicing in the judgment and destruction of the Egyptian army? How would you explain this to a non-believer? Another way to ask it – how is God simultaneously the God of judgment and the God of love?
- 4) In addition to songs of praise, we also sing about what God has promised to do when fully redeeming this broken world (including us). What songs come to mind for you that fit this category? What aspect of redemption do you most long for?
- 5) Interact with this statement: the most important instrument on Sunday mornings is the human voice.
- 6) What does it look like for you to wholeheartedly participate in singing on Sunday morning? What do you need to do *before* you arrive at the building? What do you need to do *while* singing that will help you to fully participate?
- 7) With such a wide range of preferences in music and with such a wide scope of emotions stirred through different styles of music, what are some ways your heart needs to change so that you can wholeheartedly participate in richly theological, God-centered, Christ-centered, joy-filled singing next Sunday (and every Sunday) morning?