

Questions God Asks: Why Do You Cry to Me?

(Exodus 14:5-25)



A Lenten Series on The Questions God Asks His people

The LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry to me?
Tell the people of Israel to go forward.”

(Exodus 14:15)

+ Call to Worship +

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

James 1:22

We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:10

When words are many, transgression is not lacking;

Proverbs 10:19a

"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?"

Luke 6:46

Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward.

Exodus 14:15

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

Ephesians 6:10-11

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

Isaiah 35:4

The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen

2 Timothy 4:18

+ Confession and Forgiveness +

P Heavenly Father, as we come before your presence tonight, we confess that we have daily sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. Not only have we broken your law, but we have been slow to fulfill your precepts. We've been idle when we ought to have been working. And we've doubted, waited, and questioned when we should have been serving you. Come to us with grace and mercy. And forgive us for Jesus' sake.

C Merciful Father, you have shown yourself merciful, kind, and slow to anger. For you have not made empty promises to us. But you accomplish the very thing you say. We thank you for pronouncing forgiveness upon us in Jesus. We thank you for sending Your son who lived perfectly and fulfilled all righteousness on our behalf. And we thank you for calling us into your church in which you daily and richly forgive us our sins. Give us confidence and strength in knowing that we are your people, cherished, loved, and forgiven through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

+ Hymn 685 +

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

+ Scripture Readings +

Old Testament Reading:

Exodus 14:5–25

⁵When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, the mind of Pharaoh and his servants was changed toward the people, and they said, “What is this we have done, that we have let Israel go from serving us?”

⁶So he made ready his chariot and took his army with him, ...

¹⁰When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD. ¹¹They said to Moses, “Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? ¹²Is not this what we said to you in Egypt, ‘Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.” ¹³And Moses said to the people, “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. ¹⁴The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.”

¹⁵The LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. ¹⁶Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground. ¹⁷And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. ¹⁸And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.”

¹⁹Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, ²⁰coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night.

²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. ²²And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. ²³The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh’s horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.

²⁴And in the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, ²⁵clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, “Let us flee from before Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians.”

P This is the word of our Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading:

2 Thessalonians 3:6–13

⁶Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. ⁷For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, ⁸nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. ⁹It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. ¹⁰For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. ¹¹For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. ¹²Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

¹³As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.

P This is the word of our Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading:

Luke 9:51–56

⁵¹When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵²And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. ⁵³But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” ⁵⁵But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶And they went on to another village.

P This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

+ Hymn 662 +

Onward, Christian Soldiers

+ Sermon +

Title: Why Do You Cry to Me?

Text: Exodus 14:5–25

+ Hymn 656 +

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

+ Prayers +

+ Lord's Prayer +

+ Benediction +

+ Hymn 643 +

Sent Forth by God's Blessing