



“How Quickly People Forget”

Exodus 15:19-27

November 4, 2008 marked a historical day in the life of the United States of America. The historical moment was not the changing of the political leadership of a nation, but rather who was elected to govern and lead during some very perilous and difficult days. On last Tuesday night, America called upon the service and skills of a young, gifted, anointed leader upon whom God has shown favor. One of the primary differences with this newly elected leader is that for the first time in the nation's short history an African-American has been chosen to lead a predominantly white controlled nation.

Centuries ago, the children of God, the children of Israel, the small band of those who believed in Yahweh, had been placed in Egypt to serve as slaves for 400 years. During this horrific sojourn, they continuously prayed to Jehovah to be freed from their bondage. God heard their petitions for freedom and handpicked a liberator named Moses. Moses was born as a Jew in poverty, but raised in royalty in Pharaoh's court. He was a brilliant master builder who knew the laws, ways and culture of the majority—the Egyptians. God prepared him for a mission, about which he was unaware, but one day in a moment of anger his life changed and he was forced to leave the palace. God sent him to the wilderness and groomed him for leadership. The Bible records that Moses returned to Egypt, and confronted Pharaoh, the 10 plagues, the army, and the impassable Red Sea. Under God's guidance Moses led the people to freedom.

In today's sermon text, we learn from the 14th and 15th chapters of Exodus that God defeated Pharaoh by drowning him and his army in the Red Sea, then we find Moses and his followers on the other side of the Red Sea. The people were singing, shouting, and praising God (Exodus 15:1-18) and Miriam, Moses' sister, had her personal song of victory (Exodus 15:19-21). However, as much as God and Moses had done to liberate the people, we learn *HOW QUICKLY PEOPLE FORGET*. In verses 22-27 Moses lead them across onto dry land and brought them into the wilderness of Shur. They were still frolicking. Moses could do no wrong. However, in verse 22, after three days, they could find no water. They had freedom but they were thirsty. In spite of all God and Moses had done, the people began to complain. They turned on Moses although he did his best to satisfy them and remain obedient to God. The water he did find was bitter to drink and they asked, “Moses, what are we going to drink?”

Moses was stunned, and frustrated so he asked for God's help again. God provided a piece of wood to make the water drinkable. At that moment God, as He does today, decided to TEST HIS PEOPLE!!

When we go through dry, wilderness moments following the leadership of a God anointed leader how quickly we forget how far God has brought us. Their question about drinking water roughly brushed aside all recent affirmations of God's blessings worthy of praise because He had done wonders and was clearly taking them to their land.

God has brought us, as a believing people, through many dangers, trials and snares. He has blessed us beyond measure and is constantly testing our faith, loyalty, and obedience to Him. We forget so quickly what the Lord has done, is doing and will do on our earthly journey. He has promised never to abandon nor leave us alone if we obey Him, and follow His teachings and laws.

If president elect Obama is to lead this godly nation out of its bankrupt, perverse nature, we all must seek God's divine guidance and continue to surround him in prayer. We must examine our personal, spiritual inclinations and seek God's face. Let us never forget from whence God has brought us and thank Him for the new leader He has sent us to lead us throughout this man made wilderness.

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