

When Caught In The Wilderness Genesis 13-14-15

What to do **NEXT** when caught in the wilderness of uncertainty:

1. Recognize that my detour is God's original plan.

God led them in a roundabout way through the wilderness... **Exodus** 13:17-18 (NLT)

2. Stick close to the <u>light</u>.

The Lord went ahead of them. He guided them during the day with a pillar of cloud, and he provided light at night with a pillar of fire. This allowed them to travel by day or by night. **Exodus 13:21 (NLT)**

3. Don't be shocked if at times you have to go <u>back</u> before you go <u>for</u>ward.

Then the Lord gave these instructions to Moses: "Order the Israelites to turn back and camp by Pi-hahiroth between Migdol and the sea. Camp there along the shore, across from Baal-zephon. Then Pharaoh will think, 'The Israelites are confused. They are trapped in the wilderness!' And once again I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will chase after you. I have planned this in order to display my glory through Pharaoh and his whole army. After this the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord!" So, the Israelites camped there as they were told. Exodus 14:1-4 (NLT)

4. Don't allow my fear to make me foolish.

As Pharaoh approached, the people of Israel looked up and panicked when they saw the Egyptians overtaking them. They cried out to the Lord, and they said to Moses, "Why did you bring us out here to die in the wilderness? Weren't there enough graves for us in Egypt? What have you done to us? Why did you make us leave Egypt? Didn't we tell you this would happen while we were still in Egypt? We said, 'Leave us alone! Let us be slaves to the Egyptians. It's better to be a slave in Egypt than a corpse in the wilderness!'" Ex. 14:10-12 (NLT)

5. In the midst of my fear, remember God is <u>fighting</u> for me! (He has got my back)

"When my glory is displayed through them, all Egypt will see my glory and know that I am the Lord!" Then the angel of God, who had been leading the people of Israel, moved to the rear of the camp. The pillar of cloud also moved from the front and stood behind them. **Ex. 14:13-14 & 18-19 (NLT)**

6. Go forward in my fear.

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the people to get moving! ..." **Exodus 14:15-16 (NLT)**

7. God is working in the wilderness, so WORSHIP HIM!

Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord... Ex. 15:1 (NLT)

"Let your lives overflow with joy and thanksgiving for all He has done." Colossians 2:7 (TLB)

Four Ways to Express our Gratitude to God:

<u>Sing it</u> - Psalms 30:4, <u>Speak it</u> - Eph. 5:4, <u>Pray it</u> - Phil. 4:6-7, <u>Give it</u>, Psalm 116:17

Going deeper on your own. Read Exodus 13-14-15 and answer the following questions. Have you ever thought that our detour/setback maybe God's original plan? What detours or setbacks have you encountered lately? What is one thing you could do this week to trust Him in this situation? Come prepared next week as we give thanks to our Lord by sharing communion together. Also come prepared to worship Him in song, prayer, and giving back to Him through our annual Thanksgiving Offering.