

Mini Sermon Series – “STAND”

“Don’t Just Do Something, Stand There”

Pastor Dale Campfield - October 24th, 2010

Intro:

Matt 28:19 “Go and make disciples of all nations...”

ECC Process of Discipleship: Making an IMPACT...To Love...To Grow...To Serve

We have 3 priorities – To love...which is expressed in our Sunday morning celebration and connection groups. To grow...which is expressed in our Path to Discipleship. To serve...which is expressed in our daily lives in the places we live, work and play; as well as through the local church. The vision of E.C.C. is to gather together weekly for corporate worship, loving God and each other; then to come together in small Connection Groups for discipleship and fellowship, and are regularly involved in reaching out to others with the love, acceptance, and forgiveness of Jesus Christ through community outreach. To Love...To Grow...To Serve!

Intro:

We are in a battle. The enemy does not like the fact they we are experiencing God in a New Dimension...and we are! We’re seeing God move like we’ve never seen Him move before. Souls are being saved! People are being healed! Deliverance is taking place in people’s lives, restoration of marriages, new ministries being launched, etc. The devil doesn’t like it.

Today we will continue a short sermon series that I have entitled "STAND". This will be a three week series. We have been tailing the last six weeks about Stepping Up. Stepping up to fulfill the call of God upon our lives. That call of God consists of two things: The Great Commandment, loving each other and God. The second being The Great Commission, going into all the world making disciples of all people.

Last Weeks Sermon Title: "NOT EVEN an INCH!"

You've heard the phrase, "give em' an inch, they'll take a mile." that is exactly what the devil does. If you give him one single inch, he will work his way in and take a mile. We cannot and will not give the enemy an inch.

The title of this message today is "Don’t Just Do Something, Stand There”

I was awakened by the Holy Spirit Tuesday morning of this week, about 3:45. I began to pray and seek the Lord on behalf of the family of Eastgate Community Church and our upcoming service today. The “word” that I believe the Holy Spirit has given me for this weekend is “Breakthrough”. I feel that there will be many people in the service this weekend, as well as those who will listen and watch the video later in time, that need a true Holy Spirit Breakthrough in their lives for particular things they are battling with.

Today, at the end of the message in both services, I’m going to ask for those who need a “Breakthrough Miracle”, feeling like they are penned in from every side, to come forward, STAND and receive their breakthrough. It may be on behalf of themselves, or someone they know personally that they will STAND in for.

Here we go...

Open your Bibles to **Exodus 14:1-3**.

“Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Tell the Israelites to turn back and encamp near Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. They are to encamp by the sea, directly opposite Baal Zephon. (Show map and refer to the fact that the Red Sea is connected to other lakes by a series of canals and most likely was a larger body of water at the time.) Pharaoh will think, ‘The Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert.’”

The Promised Land was northeast of Egypt. So what did God do? He had them head south.

- If they continued heading in the same direction they were going to encounter mountains almost immediately.
- If they turned around and headed back north toward Egypt that would not have accomplished a thing.
- If they turned to the west they would be faced with heading back into the southern part of the Egypt. They also would have faced some rugged terrain and thousands of miles of desert and that only once they crossed the Nile River.
- If they headed east they were faced with crossing the Red Sea.

So Pharaoh, thinking his former slaves are lost decides that he made a mistake in letting them go. He gathers his state-of-the-art army. He is determined that his forced labor employees would once again be making bricks to build his cities.

We read in verse 4, “And I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and he will pursue them.” Many still have a problem understanding this apparent capriciousness of God. They don’t want to accuse God of making men his puppets and then destroy them in the end for doing what they had no choice but to do.

Actually we can reconcile this quite easily by using the sun as an analogy. Place a stick of butter and a lump of clay right next to each other out in the sun and observe what happens. The butter melts and the clay hardens. Same agent, different substances. Some become soft when God approaches them and others become hard. What makes the difference is their attitude toward God in the first place.

So the Israelites, now hemmed in on all sides begin a routine that continued unchanged for the next forty years:

- **They grouched and grumbled that things were not going to plan.**
- **They blamed their leader for all their troubles.**
- **They began to think that Egypt wasn’t so bad after all.**
- **They concluded that they were all going to die.**

But in verse 13 Moses tells them that this will be the last time they will ever see the Egyptians. And they probably thought, “Yes, we know. We’re all going to die!” But it was going to be the other way around.

Illus: Bishop Philip Brooks

When Bishop Philip Brooks, author of “O, Little Town of Bethlehem,” was seriously ill, he requested no friends come to see him. But when an acquaintance of his named Robert Ingersoll, a famous anti-Christian propagandist, came to see him he allowed him to come in right away. Ingersoll said, “I appreciate this very much. Especially when you aren’t letting any of your close friends see you.”

Bishop Brooks responded, “Oh, I’m confident of seeing them in the next world, but this may be my last chance to see you.”

The Israelites were told that they would never see their enemies, the Egyptians, again. Now, in verses 13 and 14 we have the two most important verses of this whole story. With the Israelites staring the Red Sea in the face, Moses stands up and proclaims in a loud voice, “All right, everybody grab a pail and start baling!” No, that’s not what was said. Instead he said,

“Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring to you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you; you need only be still.”

Sometimes we say, “Don’t just stand there...do something!” Moses said, “Don’t just do something...stand there!”

Then the Lord speaks to Moses in verse 15. “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on!”

Notice the important lesson here. They are to stand still in relation to fighting the enemy but they are to go forward in relation to God’s guidance in the path that He had for them.

They did all that was in their power to do but their real battle was in believing that God had the power to save them.

In verse 21 the action begins. Hollywood tried to simulate this fantastic event in the film, The Ten Commandments. It took them, before the age of computers, 18 months to figure out how to create a simulation. It took God only a few seconds to actually do it. We are so much more powerless than God it is almost humorous how filled with pride we can sometimes become.

When the last Israelite left the western shore of the Red Sea, the cloud lifted that had been leading the Israelites but was now behind between them and Egyptians. The Egyptians now saw that the Hebrews had escaped. So what do they do, when they see this miraculous path between two walls of water? They go in. Ridiculous! The obstinacy of sin knows no logic.

In verse 25 we have the last words of these men. “Let’s get away from the Israelites! The Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.” Truer words were never spoken. The Lord was fighting on behalf of the Israelites.

And then in verses 26-30 we read about the drowning of the Egyptian army. This is where so many critics attack the veracity of this story. Look at some of the following excerpts from Bible commentaries:

· “It is clear that the “sea” crossed by the Hebrews in ch. 14 was the “Sea of Reeds.” This is a marshy swamp where the papyrus reeds grow.

· “The children of Israel are said to have passed over the Red Sea on their flight from Egypt; there is, however, considerable difficulty concerning this traditional view.”

Their premise is that God does not and has not done any miracles. That there is a natural explanation for everything.

I don't care how you want to dissect it, one way or another it has to be a miracle. How would the wind be able to come through at the exact moment the Israelites needed it, sustain itself for the entire crossing and then quit at the exact moment when all of the Egyptian army was in the water.

If the crossing really did take place in this shallow body of water only a few inches deep then praise the Lord because that's even a bigger miracle. That means that all those men and all those horses drowned in water only 6 inches deep!

This story teaches us several things:

- **You have no problem God cannot solve.**
- **You have no enemy God cannot defeat.**
- **You have no ability to save yourself but must depend upon God to save you.**

I am reminded of the author of the old hymn “Standing on the Promises” Russell Kelso Carter. Russel (1849-1928) was a star athlete of a military academy and an excellent student academically, who went on to be a successful teacher and coach. He then spent several years as an ordained Methodist minister, after which he went to medical school. He spent the last of his professional years as a doctor of medicine. Carter was also a musician and songwriter. In 1886, he co-edited *Songs of Perfect Love* with John Sweney (1837-1899), who wrote the music for such beloved songs as *Beulah Land* and *Fill Me Now*. This hymnbook included Carter's most famous hymn, *Standing on the Promises*.

Although Carter was a professed Christian most of his life, it wasn't until a crisis with his natural heart that he began to understand the reality and power of Bible promises. At age 30, his health was in critical condition and the physicians could do no more for him. Carter turned to God for help and healing.

He knelt and made a promise that healing or no, his life was finally and forever, fully consecrated to the service of the Lord. It was from that moment that the written Word of God became alive to Carter. He began to stand upon the promises of healing, determining to believe no matter what his physical condition, no matter how he felt. Over the course of the next several months his strength returned, and his heart was completely healed! Carter lived another healthy 49 years.

STANDING ON THE PROMISES

Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
Through eternal ages let His praises ring,
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing, standing,
Standing on the promises of God my Savior;
Standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises I now can see
Perfect, present cleansing in the blood for me;
Standing in the liberty where Christ makes free,
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,
Bound to Him eternally by love's strong cord,
Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
Listening every moment to the Spirit's call
Resting in my Savior as my all in all,
Standing on the promises of God.

It's time to Stand. Don't just Do something, STAND there!

Standing on the Promises of God for you life.

And as you do, you watch, you wait, you'll see!