

## Godstance

What People saw, versus what God saw...Circumstances – Natural vs. Spiritual

### Crossing of the Red Sea

#### **Exodus 13:17-14:12**

- What did the people see...dead end & certain destruction!
- What did the people do? **Complain**

#### **Ex. 14:13-14**

- What did Moses see –
  1. the Salvation of the Lord,
  2. which He will accomplish for you this day
  3. the destroyer they saw that day, would not be seen tomorrow or forever more!

\* The exact same set of circumstances and they saw two entirely different circumstances!

\* Which was true?

**Ex. 14:15-31** – Thus Israel saw the great work which the Lord had done in Egypt...feared, believed/Lord

\* What did people do? Complained

\* What did Moses do? Spoke the truth into the people's lives

\* What did God do? Saved Israel from death & destruction – just not the way they thought it should be done

\* What do we have a tendency to see in our circumstances? Trapped, Dead end, certain destruction!

\* What do we have a tendency to do in our circumstances? **Complain** – against others, against God!

\* *“God wants us to realize that He is able to make a way even when there is no way; that He is not limited by man's resources or by man's capacity, and what He promised He is able to do.”* Pastor Chuck Wisdom/Today ‘Trapped’ Jan 14<sup>th</sup>.

### The Bronze Serpent

**Num 21:4-5** – What did the people see? No food, No water, and the same loathsome/worthless bread!

**Num 21:5-6** – What did the people see? That they had sinned by complaining!

\* Same Circumstances/Different circumstances – God saw He had been providing food/water for 30+ yrs!

\* They saw “No food, No water and this worthless bread!”

\* What did Moses do – V7 – Prayed for the people

\* What did God do – V8 – Provided judgment & a choice - way of life & a way of death (live/die)

\* What do we have a tendency to see? The same old apartment, the same old job, the same old spouse, same kids, same old life, the same old St. George, school, friends, life situations...

\* We complain no place to live, no good jobs, spouse/not meeting my needs, kids sucking life out, worthless place to live with nothing to do!

\* What is God doing? Providing a nice apt/house, job to provide, a helpmate, amazing children, a great safe, clean, place to live in a beautiful city, police, fire dep, health care, parks, trails,

### Apostle Paul

\* We see the great apostle Paul, his three great missionary journeys, took/Gospel to the ends of the earth, raised people from the dead, preached to thousands, & kings, planted churches throughout the known world

**2 Cor 11:24-27** – Tells us what Paul saw! Same Circumstances/Different Circumstances

\* What would we have a tendency to see? A new career

\* What did Paul see? V30 – If I must boast, I will boast in the things which concern my infirmity!

**2 Cor 12:1-6** – Gets to see Heaven & hear things not lawful to speak about here on earth

\* V7-8 – Given a thorn in the flesh – Even the great Apostle Paul pleaded with the Lord/might depart

\* What did God see? V9a What did that reset Paul to see? V9b-10

\* More than positive thinking, more than glass ½ full, finding the silver lining, more than He can heal

\* *“Part of me wants to say how sorry I am, but the other part of me wants to say that God is calling you into a new place of blessing, and the circumstances don't always accurately portray the blessing that lies ahead*

*but our knowledge of God surely tells us the truth.”* Close personal friend

**Worthless Bread** - Communion

**John 6:47–51** - Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life. **48** I am the bread of life. **49** Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. **50** This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. **51** I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”

**Same set of Circumstances**

\* Jesus praying in the garden – My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.” 1) “Didn’t get an answer” 2) He didn’t get His will done 3) That was His will!

**Same set of Circumstances**

\* Some People see the Cross as a sign of defeat, because they don’t fully understand what it truly means

\* Yet, it is where Jesus gave His life that we might live forever, not defeat, but victory

\* It all has to do with what circumstances you choose to see!

\* God is Bigger than the Circumstances we see!