

Moses and Miriam Praise God

September 5th 2021

Precepts

Opening Question

When have you spontaneously praised God after an emotional event?

EXODUS 15:11-13
(NLT)

11 “Who is like you among the gods, O LORD—glorious in holiness, awesome in splendor, performing great wonders?

12 You raised your right hand, and the earth swallowed our enemies.

13 With your unfailing love you lead the people you have redeemed. In your might, you guide them to your sacred home.

EXODUS 15:14-16
(NLT)

14 The peoples hear and tremble; anguish grips those who live in Philistia.

15 The leaders of Edom are terrified; the nobles of Moab tremble. All who live in Canaan melt away;

16 terror and dread fall upon them. The power of your arm makes them lifeless as stone until your people pass by, O LORD, until the people you purchased pass by.

EXODUS 15:17-19
(NLT)

17 You will bring them in and plant them on your own mountain—the place, O LORD, reserved for your own dwelling, the sanctuary, O LORD, that your hands have established.

18 The LORD will reign forever and ever!”

19 When Pharaoh’s horses, chariots, and charioteers rushed into the sea, the LORD brought the water crashing down on them. But the people of Israel had walked through the middle of the sea on dry ground!

Exodus
15:20-21 (NLT)

20 Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine and led all the women as they played their tambourines and danced.

21 And Miriam sang this song: "Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; he has hurled both horse and rider into the sea.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Compare and contrast the context and attitudes toward violence between today's text and Jesus' words in Matthew 5:43-45.
2. In our modern context, how are we to respond when our enemies fall into unfortunate situations?

APPLICATION FOR ACTIVATION

Songs are often used to help shape a people's identity. The song in today's lesson helped formerly enslaved people to see themselves as victors. They could advance, knowing that their unrivaled God would guide them into the land he had promised their forefathers. Another song, "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing," had a similar impact. Written in 1900 by James Weldon Johnson and set to music by his brother, John Rosamond Johnson, it helped African Americans to see the gains made despite great adversity. While recognizing the past, it continued in hope, anticipating increased goodness from the God who had brought them thus far on the way.

APPLICATION FOR ACTIVATION

Consider memorizing all three stanzas of “Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing,” and as a class, perform it at a church service, nursing home, or shelter for formerly incarcerated men or women.