

Becoming a People of Worship and Thanksgiving:

Exod 15:1-19, Luke 17:11-19

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What is the meaning of Moses' Song (Ex 15:1-19)

1. **A Song of Thanksgiving** for their deliverance from the Red Sea and their former Egyptian slave masters:

- “I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea... Pharaoh’s chariots and his host he cast into the sea, and his chosen officers were sunk in the Red Sea. The floods covered them; they went down into the depths like a stone.” (Ex 15:1-5)
- “At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up; the floods stood up in a heap; the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea.” (Ex 15:8)
- “You blew with your wind; the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters.” (Ex 15:10)

What is the meaning of Moses' Song (Ex 15:1-19)

2. **A Song of Confidence** for their future security for their journey to the Promised Land:

- “The peoples have heard; they tremble; pangs have seized the inhabitants of Philistia. Now are the chiefs of Edom dismayed; trembling seizes the leaders of Moab; all the inhabitants of Canaan have melted away. Terror and dread fall upon them; because of the greatness of your arm, they are still as a stone, till your people, O LORD, pass by, till the people pass by whom you have purchased.” (Ex 15:14-16)
- You will bring them in and plant them on your own mountain, the place, O LORD, which you have made for your abode, the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have established.” (Ex 15:17)

What is the meaning of Moses' Song (Ex 15:1-19)

3. **A Song of Worship** for the character of God and His covenant relationship with them:

- **The LORD is strong and mighty and will fight to save them:** “The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him. The LORD is a man of war; the LORD is his name.” (Ex 15:2-3)
- **The LORD is distinguished from all other spiritual beings in His majesty and power :** “Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?” (Ex 15:11-12)
- **The LORD is faithful in covenant love for His people:** “You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed; you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode.” (Ex 15:13)

Does one celebration of God's deliverance make us a people of worship and thanksgiving?

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- **Israel's jubilation quickly turned to doubting, grumbling and betrayal:**
 - ...the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?" (Ex 15:23-24)
 - "Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." (Ex 16:2-3)
 - And Moses said, "...what are we? **Your grumbling is not against us but against the LORD.**" (Ex 16:8)
 - ...the people quarreled with Moses and ... they tested the LORD by saying, "**Is the LORD among us or not?**" (Ex 17:2-7)
 - ...the people gathered themselves together to Aaron and said to him, "Up, **make us gods who shall go before us...These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!**" (Ex 32:1-4)

God is not to be treated transactionally like a Genie or a Vending Machine



Dire consequences of treating God transactionally

- **The Wrath of the Lord:** And the LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, and behold, it is a **stiff-necked people**. Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them...” (Ex 32:9-10)
- **Withdrawal of the Presence of the Lord:** Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; **but I will not go up among you**, lest I consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people.” (Ex 33:3)
- **Denial from the Kingdom of Heaven:** “**Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven**, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. (Matt 7:21)
- **Consequences—Corruption Eternal Life:** Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh **reap corruption**, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit **reap eternal life**. (Gal 6:7-8)

becoming a people of worship and thanksgiving

1. A humble people
2. A disciplined people
3. A faithful people

1. A Humble People who have, and is, nothing without God

- "Gratitude is the inward experience of thankfulness... The discipline of gratitude is the explicit effort to **acknowledge that all I am and have is a gift from God.**" – Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*, p.198
- "Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for **all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours**... But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For **all things come from you, and of your own have we given you...**" (1 Chr 29:11-14)
- Mic. 6:8 He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to **walk humbly with your God?** (Mic 6:8)

2. A Disciplined People who has internalised the Ways of God

- **Humility is the essence of worship and thanksgiving.**
 - For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are **my ways higher than your ways** and my thoughts than your thoughts. (Is. 55:9)
- **Humility needs to be learned:**
 - Thus says the LORD: “Stand by the roads, and look, and **ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is;** and **walk in it, and find rest for your souls.”** (Jer 6:16)
- **Discipleship is following Christ’s teaching, values and examples:**
 - And he took a cup, and when he had **given thanks** he said, “Take this, and divide it among yourselves. And he took bread, and when he had **given thanks**, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” (Luke 22:17-19)

3. A Faithful People who will trust in God in all circumstances

- "To cultivate gratitude, we must learn to '**count our blessings.**' This is not some trite, superficial exercise. Rather, it is a deeply spiritual practice that helps us **recognize the gracious hand of God in all of life.**" – Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*, p.198
- **The faith of Job:** "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. **The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.**" (Job 1:21)
- **The Song of Habakkuk:** Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, **yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. GOD, the Lord, is my strength;** he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places. (Hab 3:17-19)