

Miriam's Lesson

Week of Oct. 21 - 27, 2019

Introduction

Miriam, Moses' sister, has prayed with her people for years to be delivered into freedom and brought to the promised land. After helping to save Moses' life, she and her family watch as God uses Moses to do this very thing. He convinces Pharaoh with signs from the Lord to let his people go. As Moses leads his people out of Egypt, Pharaoh's heart is hardened and he comes after them to bring them back into slavery. God commands Moses to reach his hand over the sea so his people can cross safely. Once across, the sea closes up, and covers the entire army of Pharaoh. Miriam and her people were filled with relief and joy! Joyous praising erupted and Moses and Miriam sang a song of praise. When Moses was finished, Miriam was filled with such joy and her songs continued.

Lesson Exodus 15: 13 - 21

13 In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling. **14** The nations will hear and tremble; anguish will grip the people of Philistia. **15** The chiefs of Edom will be terrified, the leaders of Moab will be seized with trembling, the people of Canaan will melt away; **16** terror and dread will fall on them. By the power of your arm they will be as still as a stone—until your people pass by, Lord, until the people you bought pass by. **17** You will bring them in and plant them on the mountain of your inheritance—the place, Lord, you made for your dwelling, the sanctuary, Lord, your hands established. **18** "The Lord reigns for ever and ever." **19** When Pharaoh's horses, chariots and horsemen went into the sea, the Lord brought the waters of the sea back over them, but the Israelites walked

through the sea on dry ground. **20** Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron's sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women followed her, with timbrels and dancing. **21** Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted. Both horse and driver he has hurled into the sea."

Questions

1. What JOY Miriam must have felt. She has just witnessed the fulfillment of the promise of the Lord. Her people have been freed from slavery and they are on their way to the promised land! Where have you witnessed the Lord's promise and grace in your life?
2. We pause in this scripture to see the Lord's promise revealed and see how His people rejoiced with song. Yet, we know more of the story. We know the hardships the Lord's people will face as they move toward the promised land. How often do we let the shadow of worry over what is to come, interfere with the praise we should offer the Lord in this moment?
3. Miriam couldn't stop! The song was done, yet she took a tambourine and began the song again leading the women in continued praise. Have you ever felt so full of joy? If so when and why?
4. What do you do in your life to share the joy of Christ with others?
5. The trials and sufferings the Israelites had experienced before they were freed, made their freedom so much sweeter. As you have grown in your walk with Christ, when have you seen God use the suffering you endured to bring about an even greater joy?
6. It is so easy to become distracted by the routine of our daily lives, that it can be hard to see where God fits. Miriam and her people never gave up hope of God's promise. But they had hard times as well. What is the hope that we have been promised? Have you allowed that hope to guide how you live your life?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, how often we doubt the promises you make, we blind ourselves from the pure JOY you desire for our lives. Yet you continue to reveal your unconditional love for us in each moment of each day. Help us to see your love. Open our eyes to see the promises you've given and kept. Help us be more like Miriam; singing your praises with joyous abandon, not concerned about how the world sees us, but give us a heart that seeks to please only You. In Jesus' Joyous Name. Amen.