



HOPE ROCK
C H U R C H
A T L A K E T R A V I S

On the Shores...

Exodus 14:13-14 (ESV)

13 And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. 14 The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent."

Just like Moses and the Israelites, against the backdrop of an advancing enemy, when life and trials are at their most challenging, the Lord speaks to us. On the one hand, we have troubles in the form of an army bearing down on us and on the other, what seems like a dead-end with nowhere to go as we look at the vastness and impossibility of crossing the ocean that lies ahead of us. In our flesh, we want to scream, shout and panic. It's natural. All our emotions kick in, fight or flight is what we have done our entire lives; take control! The Lord, in this seemingly impossible situation, gives us a command; He gives a command that seems counterintuitive, in fact, seems silly. His command? Be silent!

Being silent when all you want to do is scream is not something that comes naturally. In fact, one could say it's impossible. Almost as impossible as crossing the ocean before you. Yet which one of these is the more difficult task? Crossing the sea or waiting in absolute trust for God to reveal his plan?

I would argue that being silent and waiting is harder. You see, in our flesh, we could easily try to devise ways and means to get out of the trouble we are in. Perhaps there is a log we can use to float across the sea or maybe we can swim, perhaps we can surrender to the enemy or even try and fight? All of these are alternatives, all of them would keep your mind busy with how you could survive & you may even for a moment forget the gravity of your situation. But that's not God's way.

Being silent means that I realize I am in a position where I have nothing to offer, no plans (at least that would work) no solutions to the predicament I find myself in and so, in trust and in absolute faith, I wait. Like the immovable rocks on the shore, I wait for God to do what only he can.

Silence is about us saying Lord I came to you with nothing to offer & nothing's changed, but I know you have something. in fact, everything for me in this difficulty is in your hands.

What happens then? We become the object of the Lord's defense. He fights not with us but for us. Ultimately, we know how this story ends, the seas are parted, and the enemy is defeated.

You may be feeling like you are between a rock and a hard place, if that's the case, take comfort in knowing, that God wants you to be silent and just rest in Him and let Him do what He does best.

Why?

Exodus 14:18 (ESV)

18 And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen."

Because He gets the glory in your situation. Not me or you or any plan or man. He does.