

Sometimes You Have to Sing

Exodus

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Would you join me in taking a Bible and let's turn together to the Old Testament book of Exodus 15 but we're looking for Exodus 15. So glad to see you today and glad to spend this time together. I'm a forgetful person and you probably are as well, these times that we gather we get to rejoice, we get to celebrate, we get to remember too because we are prone to forget and it's unthinkable, really, that we could forget what is so graciously and richly done for us, but as we'll see this morning, we are forgetful and God knows that. He's kind and he provides and he's patient and he helps us, and we're gonna see some of that this morning.

Exodus 15. I want to begin reading at verse 1 and read through verse 21. So it's a long reading this morning. I hope you'll bear with me, follow along. Exodus 15, chapter 15, verse 1.

1 Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying, "I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea. 2 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. 3 The LORD is a man of war; the LORD is his name. 4 Pharaoh's chariots and his host he cast into the sea, and his chosen officers were sunk in the Red Sea. 5 The floods covered them; they went down into the depths like a stone. 6 Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power, your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy. 7 In the greatness of your majesty you overthrow your adversaries; you send out your fury; it consumes them like stubble. 8 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. 9 The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them. I will draw my sword; my hand shall destroy them.' 10 You blew with your wind; the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters. 11 Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders? 12 You stretched out your right hand; the earth swallowed them. 13 You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed; you have guided

them by your strength to your holy abode. 14 The peoples have heard; they tremble; pangs have seized the inhabitants of Philistia. 15 Now are the chiefs of Edom dismayed; trembling seizes the leaders of Moab; all the inhabitants of Canaan have melted away. 16 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. 17 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. 18 The LORD will reign forever and ever." 19 For when the horses of Pharaoh with his chariots and his horsemen went into the sea, the LORD brought back the waters of the sea upon them, but the people of Israel walked on dry ground in the midst of the sea. 20 Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and dancing. 21 And Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea."

This is God's word.

Let me pray.

Father, over these next few minutes, we ask for the Spirit's help that we might better understand the place of singing, to understand why your people sing. Holy Spirit, we tend to forget so much, so please help us today, revive us today, refresh our hearts as we are in your presence. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Do you sometimes sing in the car when you're alone? Let me just ask you, you don't have to if you don't want to, but how many of you have found yourself at one time or another singing in the car by yourself? Slip up your hand. I knew it. I knew it. In the 9 AM service, vast majority, I was pleasantly surprised because I do. I mean, I sing in the car a lot. Let me ask you this, have you ever been caught? Have you ever been caught? You know, you pull up to the light and you're just singing enthusiastically and you happen to look over and they're staring at you going, like.... Or you know, there's times you point ahead and say, "What are those people doing up there?" Because they're singing and really, you know?

It happened to a man in Canada, a 38 year old father is driving to work and he had his radio on and he was listening, you know, to somewhat oldies, I guess you might call this an oldie, it was I think the group is called C & C Music Factory, the song "Everybody Dance Now" back in 1990, okay? I tried this in the 9 AM and I don't know because it's a little difficult to sing, you know, but, you know, it's "Everybody dance now," bomp, bomp, bomp, bomp-bomp, you know? Trust me, trust me, if you heard it, it's easy to get into, you know, it's got a good beat.

["Sing the rest of it."] No, I don't know the rest. That's the only part I know.

But anyway, he was listening to it, getting into it, singing it enthusiastically. He looks in his rearview mirror and, yes, the police have the lights on. He pulls over, serious, he pulls over and it's not one car, it's two cars. Two policemen on one side of the car, two policemen on the other, you know? And he's wondering like, "What in the world did I go?" And they asked him, they said, they wanted to search his car, they asked him this, they said, "Were you screaming?" And he said, "No, I was singing. I was singing." Do you know they gave him, they said he had broken an ordinance of excessive noise. They gave him a ticket for \$118 and his response was this, "How do you not sing to this song?" He had a good point. How do you not sing?

Sometimes, sometimes you've just got to sing and such was the case for the Israelites recorded in Exodus 15. We have been working our way through the book of Exodus and the last time that we were together, we read through chapter 14 and that was the crossing of the Red Sea, the Israelites crossing the Red Sea, glorious victory. But I just want to remind you of something, you do know that the story of Exodus actually begins in the book of Genesis, right? Remember God called a man named Abraham and he promised Abraham, "I'm going to make of you a great nation." Now remember for those of you who do know, you know that, wow, crazy promise. Abraham and Sarah are well beyond their child-bearing age and they do not have a child, but we find that in spite of that God gave them a son. They were able to bear a son and they named him Isaac, and Isaac grew up and he found this beautiful lady named Rebekah, and they married and they began to have children and their children had children, and what is that called? It's multiplying, right? Remember it started out with a promise, God said, "I'm gonna make of you a great nation. Old man, I'm gonna make of you a great nation." And God did, and this multiplicity of God's promised people became slaves in the country of Egypt, and they cried out in the book of Exodus, we read right at the beginning, they cried out to God for deliverance and God had mercy upon them and he delivered them. And you remember Pharaoh finally, finally after these plagues were poured out, Pharaoh finally let the people of Israel go, and as they were moving on toward freedom, Pharaoh changed his mind and he and his armies came after the Israelites, and you'll remember that the Israelites were caught between this unconquerable army and this impassable sea, and last time we looked at this, what did we find? God made a way where there seemed to be no way. There was something interesting that Moses said to the Israelites as the Egyptians were coming after them and they were caught in this really, really tough place. Moses said this to them in chapter 14, Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm and see the salvation of the Lord which he will work for you today," listen, "for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again." That must have been unthinkable. I mean, there's this army, these unique elite chariots that are coming after them, and this threat is upon them and it doesn't seem like they're gonna get out of this, and Moses said, "You see these Egyptians? Do you see them? You will not see them again."

Now, it's really almost impossible for us to put ourselves in that place, but let's just imagine with me that you have this horrible inescapable threat that is bearing upon your mind and your soul, and some of you don't have to imagine, some of you sitting here right now and you've got something that's bothering you so bad, you're wondering, "You

know, what is the test going to reveal? What is this confrontation, what is this conversation gonna lead to?" In other words, "What's gonna happen?" And it feels like it's just hanging right over you and you think to yourself, "Boy, if this threat would just go away, if this would just disappear, if this would just be lifted off of me, I would," sing maybe? "If this threat was lifted off me, I'd feel like dancing. If this threat was just all of a sudden gone through no work of my own, I'd feel like singing to the top of my voice." But it's there. But let's say through no power of yours the threat is lifted, that somehow or another what was weighing so heavy upon you suddenly is gone, what would you do? Would you sing? That's exactly what the Israelites did. When the threat was lifted, when the victory came, their first instinct was to sing.

Here's what I want to dwell on for just a few minutes this morning: why, why do God's people sing? Why do God's people sing? First answer I want to propose to you is we are responding to a great victory. When God's people sing, it is a response to a great victory. How many of you today are gonna watch football? Anybody gonna watch football, throw up your hand? A little less than what I thought. Yeah, first service there was one and she's about 70 years old. I couldn't believe it. So some of you are gonna watch football today. What are you gonna hear right before the game, what are you gonna hear? Ah, could it be the National Anthem? Star Spangled Banner? Yes, right? It was a poem. Francis Scott Key wrote what has become the Star Spangled Banner. It began as a poem. As the British were bombarding Fort McHenry during the War of 1812, Scott Key was inspired. He was looking across and he saw Fort McHenry being bombarded and he watched all night until the next morning. What was still standing? The American flag was still standing so he wrote a poem.

Years later that poem was put to music and we hear the first verse of it before sporting events. I just thought maybe now would be a good time, I'm going somewhere with this, but right now it would be a good time to just ask you: have you ever paid any attention to the fourth verse? You see, today before the games, there's gonna be the singing of the National Anthem, the Star Spangled Banner, you're gonna hear the first verse and I just wondered if they slipped in the fourth verse instead of the first verse, what would people do? So now you're going, "What is the fourth verse?" Well, I have it for you. Here it is.

"Oh! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand
Between their loved home and the war's desolation!
Blest with victory and peace, may the heav'n rescued land
Praise the Power [notice that] that hath made and preserved us a nation.
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto: "In God is our trust."
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!"

What would people do, what would secular United States do if verse 4 was sung and played instead of verse 1? They would probably say, "We're not singing this song anymore. We're getting rid of it." So it's kind of funny to me, there's, you know, they would not think about not singing this song, the first verse, but once they get wind of

verse 4, they're gonna probably go, "Oh, we're not singing this song anymore." But you know why we have that song? Do you know why? Because it is a response to a great victory. Great victories call for great songs. Great victories call for singing.

Why do God's people sing? My first recollection of church, I couldn't have been more than five years of age and I still have this snapshot in my mind, we were in a church building, I was standing next to my mother, she was standing, there were some people in a choir area, they were singing, the entire congregation was singing. I couldn't have been more than five years old and I remember hearing them, I remember hearing my mother, she had the most beautiful alto voice, and I stood there trying to find a part to sing, you know? I just instinctively was like trying to find a part to fit in, and it was probably then, you know, that God was so kind in giving me a gift to sing harmony. And I think back about that, the church was singing and I've wondered ever since then, every church service on a Sunday morning I've been to God's people sing, why is that? Have you ever wondered about that? Why? Why? Why is it? Why can't we just come and say hello and shake hands and maybe have a five minute sermon and then go home, you know? Why can't we just do that? We're not gonna do that, by the way. But why do we sing? Why is singing a part of our worship?

Well, we can answer that by asking another question: why were the Israelites singing here in chapter 15 of the book of Exodus? Let me give you some answers. They, first, they are responding to a great victory. Salvation, God's salvation had put a song in their heart. It was instinctive after what God had done for them, the instinct was to respond in praise to him. How do we know this? Well, we know it from chapter 15 but the Psalmist in Psalm 106 comments on this and notice what he said, "He rebuked the Red Sea, and it became dry, and he led them through the deep as through a desert." Notice, "So he saved them from the hand of the foe and redeemed them from the power of the enemy. And the waters covered their adversaries; not one of them was left. Then they believed his words; they sang his praise." I'm just gonna ask you: in light of what we're reading here, would you expect the Israelites to be standing after this great victory, would you be expecting them to stand there going...? But you see, in churches across America that's often the response, and I'm not getting on anybody. Don't misunderstand, you know? We'll get to something else in a minute that might help, but look, the instinct of these people who, what? He saved them. He redeemed them. Their response was, "Sing praise to this glorious God!" God's salvation always demands a response of praise. It's not just singing, okay? It's not. Praise doesn't just come in the form of singing but it's certainly a form. I mean, what does the Bible tell us? When God created the world, the morningstars sang together. When Israel defeated Jabin and Sisera, Deobrah and Barak sang for joy. David sang when he was delivered from his enemies. All throughout the Scriptures you have people singing in response to God's great victory for them.

Perhaps my favorite is found in Revelation 15. You'll see this, let's look at it for just a moment. John is looking and having a vision into heaven and here's what he said, "And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire--and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of

God, and the song of the Lamb." Now see, for those of you who kind of look at the Bible like just an assortment of, you know, you've got this over here and this over here and this over here, this ought to cause some antennas to go up. I mean, you've got our reading in Exodus 15, now we go all the way to the book of Revelation and what do we see? A sea, a sea, the saints of God are standing on a sea of glass. Now that ought to raise some antennas and go, "Huh, what does that mean?" And then you have a beast. It says they conquered the beast. This is the enemy of the people of God. What do we have in the book of Exodus? We've got the Pharaoh who is an enemy of the people of God. Do you see any similarities? And then we find that these people who are appearing by a sea have conquered the beast. They have been, what? Victorious over the beast. But now listen, be careful here, notice what they're singing. They're not singing this, "We have been victorious over the beast. We are great people. We're so wonderful, we're so strong, we're so powerful." They're not singing about themselves. No, it's because of their enduring trust in Jesus the Lamb that they participate in the Lamb's victory. That's why it says that they conquered, it wasn't because of anything they did, they remained faithful and trusted the Lamb of God.

So what should we see here? We should see here that the Red Sea victory that we read about in Exodus 15 is pointing to an even greater victory. I mean, we should see that clearly in the book of Revelation. There's something, there's something that the Red Sea was pointing to. There's something that this celebration and singing was pointing to. What was it? Luke 9. Now let me set this up. Luke 9 gives us the story of the transfiguration. Jesus has been transfigured. He's standing upon a mount and gloriously shining, and as the disciples are looking they see not just Jesus but Moses and Elijah. Notice what happened, "And behold, two men were talking with him," they were talking to Jesus, "who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure." Now I have a little word beside that, do you know why? Because the original language there is the word "exodus." It's the same word that is used in the book of Exodus of God delivering his people from their Egyptian slavery. So what does this mean here? This is really big. They are talking with Jesus about his exodus which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Isn't it interesting that the Holy Spirit would choose that word? What is that telling us? It is telling us that they're having a conversation about Jesus that through his death, through his resurrection, through his ascension he will be leading an exodus for those who are trapped in their exodus of sin. Those like me and you who are enslaved by our passions and our desires. Jesus would accomplish our exodus. Do you see that?

You see, this will be the great victory that you and I must respond to in song. This is the great victory that we sing about today. When we sing a song like, "Jesus paid it all or in Christ alone," we're singing about the great victory that Jesus has wrought for people like me and for you and great victories require a response of praise. Secondly, why do God's people sing? Well, secondly, we are responding to a command from our Lord.

Bob Coughlin I would say is probably an expert when it comes to Christian singing. He said this, "All told the Bible contains over 400 references to singing and 50 direct commands to sing." I want you to see one of them. Psalm 47:6, "Sing praises to God, sing praises!" Do you see the exclamation mark? It doesn't read like this, it doesn't, "Sing

praises to God, sing praises. Sing praises to our King, sing praises." It doesn't read like that. It doesn't read like that. It reads, "Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!" It is a command and I know you and I know me, we don't like anybody telling us what to do, do we? "I'll sing if I want to."

I remember Katherine and I, we were standing in a church back in the '80s, I won't tell you where but the song director, he'd get up and he'd sing us to death, man. I wanted to beat him to death. I did. It was like he was, "I'm gonna make you all sing and we're gonna sing, if it takes 30 minutes to get you to sing, if it takes 40, I'm gonna get you." And finally you just surrendered. "Whatever! I'll sing! Alright, just let me sit down," you know?

We don't like, let's face it, we don't like being commanded to do anything, for that matter, but I just want you to know one of the reasons why God's people sing is because we're responding to a command and that sounds a little odd, I know, I know, because you're probably thinking, "Why in the world would God? That just don't sound right, 'Sing to me. Sing to me.'" It doesn't sound right, does it? Well, think about it this way, many of you are parents and your child at some time or another has received a generous gift, maybe it was, you know, maybe it was envelope with some money in it, maybe it was birthday present, whatever, most of the time, now most of the time your kids don't do the following, most of the times they don't go, "Thank you, sir. I appreciate that gift. That was pretty generous of you. Thank you." Most of the time they don't do that, do they? Most of the time unless they do it if they've been trained, but most of the time what do they do? What do you have to do? You say, "Say thank you. Say thank you. Write a card. Get on the phone." If you're a good parent, you will follow up on this, when your kids get gifts, you will say, "Now you need to call them or you need to send a note. You need to thank them." Why is that so important? It's because according to Romans 1, one of the big gaping holes in our lives is we are not thankful people, especially to God. We don't thank him as we should, you see. We need to be redeemed from that. We need to be taught. We need to be trained. We need to be commanded by a loving parent that will say, "You need to say thank you." It will help us. It'll help your kids. It'll help your grandkids. And it will help the people of God to be commanded.

You see, think about who is commanding us. Just think about, dwell on that for a minute. If you have problems going, "I just don't know if I like this commandment stuff," think about who's commanding you to sing? The Lord who redeemed you. Now see, if you have laid the bar way down here and salvation is just kind of like, "Yeah, yeah, well, that's great." Then you don't have a clue. If salvation means so little to you, if you've never seen and even tasted the depth of your sin that you've been rescued from, then you probably won't get too excited. You might not even sing. You might never say, "Thank you." But just so you'll know, the Lord who is commanding this is the one who has redeemed you and his redemption always demands a response, and his redemption demonstrates that he wants your good. He's out for your good. He really is. Even when he commands you and I to sing, he is out for our good because our singing of praise unto him will help us.

Now let me pause here for a moment because inevitably someone will say this, "But pastor, what if I don't feel like singing?" I've been leading singing here for almost 25 years. Honest confession, I haven't always felt like singing, okay? I haven't always felt like singing but it would be real difficult for me to walk in on Sunday morning and just get up here and go, "That's it, I don't feel like singing." And sit down. You know, you might say, "Aw, you just grit your teeth and bear it and you go right on through, don't you?" What if we don't feel like singing? What if our circumstances are so difficult at the time that we really don't? Like this morning when we got started and I try to be sensitive to this but it's a difficult balance, but I try to be sensitive to the fact, you know, that we started off this morning, I encouraged you to clap your hands. Now why would I do that? Because, you know, the Scripture, you know? But it's inevitable somebody might be sitting there going, "I don't feel like clapping my hands. Don't tell me to clap my hands. Don't do that. I don't feel like it. You don't know what I'm going through right now." I understand what you're saying because I have been there before.

So what do we do? Well, I find this helpful, okay? I'll just walk through a few things. Remember when Jesus and his disciples left the Upper Room, they were having their last meal together, they leave and they're on their way, where? To the garden of Gethsemane. It's going to be extremely difficult for Jesus at the garden. The disciples are going to fall asleep. They're gonna leave him alone. He's going to agonize, deep depression. But what did he do on the way to the garden? He sang. You can look it up. He and the disciples sang a hymn together. We don't know what it was but on the way to a very difficult circumstance, he sang.

Paul and Silas, they were in prison, they were in chains. It was about midnight and the Scriptures tell us that they were singing. That's pretty difficult circumstances, don't you think?

Then you'll see a picture here. I don't know who these brothers are but this is a picture of persecuted Christians singing in Pakistan. Notice, look close, not everybody's singing but these brothers up front with the guitars, they're singing. And friends, this is not, this is not Mount Washington. This is Pakistan, predominantly Muslim country, and they are visible out front singing praises unto Jesus Christ the Lord. And I look at that picture and I think that's pretty difficult circumstances to be under to do that.

Then I read, and you'll see this on the overhead, this is a pastor who was imprisoned for his faith in Christ in another country who said, "When we were in prison, we sang almost every day because Christ was alive in us. They put chains on our hands and feet, they chained us to add to our grief, yet we discovered that our chains are splendid musical instruments." Watch this, "When we clanged them together in rhythm we could sing, 'This is the day,' clang, clang, 'this is the day,' clang, clang, 'which the Lord has made,' clang, clang, 'which the Lord has made,' clang clang." Pretty difficult circumstances, you think? Probably so.

Notice in that, I like to pick this apart, did you notice in the first sentence, "When we were in prison, we sang almost every day because." Why? Is it because, "Well, we sang

every day because we're obligated to do it. You know, we're gonna show up and I know they're inevitably gonna ask us to stand and we're gonna have to sing." Was that because? Or was it, "We sang because our circumstances suddenly got so much better"? No, they sang, what? Because Christ was alive in them and, friends, that's true of you if you're a believer. That is true of me if I'm a believer. Christ is alive in me.

Notice what it says next, it said, "Yet we discovered." I want to suggest to you that as we answer the command of our Lord, we might discover some things that we wouldn't otherwise have discovered. For example, this morning we sang a song entitled "I Will Sing." In the chorus you'll remember this in a moment, we sang, "I will sing," and at the end of the chorus it says, "because your word is true." We didn't sing, "I will sing because my circumstances have gotten better. I will sing because all the darkness has gone away and it's all light now." No, it says, "I will sing, I will praise even in my darkest hour through the sorrow and the pain. I will sing, I will praise and lift my hands to honor you." Why? "Because your word is true." Because Christ is alive in us.

You see, what should we do when we don't feel like singing? Do not just grit your teeth and just say, "Well, I'll just grit my teeth and push on through." No, no, ask God for faith and mercy to feel what is appropriate in light of who God is and what he has done for you in Christ. That's what we forget. We feel the circumstances so, "I don't feel like singing," and I understand that, and so this is medicine for me to pray and to ask God for the faith and mercy to feel what is appropriate in light of what God has done for me in Christ, and that's why it's good for me to sing songs because they remind me of what God has done for me in Christ, which brings me to one final, short, brief point. Why do God's people sing? It's because singing is an aid for teaching and remembering.

In our text in Exodus 15, the very first word, what is the very first word, what does it say? "Then." Then. Now why is that important? Chapter 14 records the parting of the Red Sea and the Israelites crossing over on dry land and the Egyptians being destroyed and seen no more. Chapter 15 begins with, "Then." Here's what they did not do. The Israelites and Moses, they didn't say, "Well, that was pretty cool. Ah, let's all meet here in about a month and we'll have a singing." Then. Then. Now why is that important? You see, they did it then rather than later because they would respond before time and the deceitfulness of heart erased the good impressions that had been made upon them.

Friends, I'll tell you what, we do not believe this enough, we are incredibly forgetful. The good impressions that the Spirit of God makes upon us we often put off to later, "I'll do it later. I'll do it later. I'll do this later." But notice they responded then while the good impressions of what God had done for them, while it was still fresh upon their hearts they broke out in song and praise unto God. How many times have you thought, "If God answers this prayer, I'm gonna be so happy. You won't be able to keep me down. If God does this for me, I'll tell you what, it would be hard to keep my feet on the ground. If God does this for me, I'll never quit thanking him." How many times have you found yourself a few weeks down the road, God answered that prayer, he did above and beyond what you asked and suddenly it dawns upon you, "I don't think I thanked God for that." You see, on this side of it we say, "Oh, I'll never stop thanking God. I'll be so happy, I'll sing,

I'll tell everybody." Friends, we are so forgetful. The deceitfulness of our hearts often erases the good impressions that have been made and so God himself, God himself uses music, singing, to remind us of his word.

Let me read you something and we'll try to bring this to a close. In Deuteronomy 31, here is what God says. Listen very closely. "Now therefore write this song and teach it to the people of Israel. Put it in their mouths, that this song may be a witness for me against the people of Israel. For when I have brought them into the land flowing with milk and honey, which I swore to give to their fathers, and they have eaten and are full and grown fat, they will turn to other gods and serve them, and despise me and break my covenant. And when many evils and troubles have come upon them, this song shall confront them as a witness (for it will live unforgotten in the mouths of their offspring). For I know what they are inclined to do even today, before I have brought them into the land that I swore to give." Do you hear what's happening there? God is saying, "You're gonna enjoy my blessings, you're gonna enjoy my generosity, you're gonna enjoy my kindness and you're gonna forget about me. You're gonna forget about me. You're gonna turn to other gods, so right now I want you to learn a song, I want you to learn it now and I want you to get it in your heart and I want you to teach it to your children, and then when all these troubles begin to fall upon you because you're drinking from broken cisterns, that song is gonna speak to your heart, it's gonna challenge you, it's gonna convict you hopefully that you will repent and return unto your first love." Oh yeah, singing is an aid that God gives us forgetful people to remember the most important things that we should never forget.

Secondly and I'm done, Colossians 3 you'll see this verse. Singing is an aid for teaching. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God." I know people who do their devotions during the day, they will have in their hand, 1, a Bible, number 2, a hymnbook. They will read Scripture and let God speak to them. They will respond in prayer back to God and then they will open the hymnbook and they might sing the hymn or just read it, and I'm not talking about these happy, clappy type of things, I'm talking about the rich hymns of the church that have deep theology that teach us good theology about God. Singing, singing is an aid that God has generously given to us to help us to remember and to teach us.

Brothers and sisters, singing Christian songs cannot save you. I know a lot of unbelievers, oh man, they sing Amazing Grace at the drop of a hat. They don't know what it means. They don't know what it means, but they'll sing it. "That's, oh, we gotta sing that one. We gotta sing Amazing Grace. Gotta have that one at momma's funeral. Gotta have that." What makes the difference? What makes the difference, one person sings Amazing Grace, another person sings Amazing Grace, what makes the difference? In our text it said this, Moses is singing, "The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him." What makes the difference? One can sing Amazing Grace singing a Christian song and know nothing of its origin and its meaning, someone else can sing Amazing Grace because they're in a relationship with God through Jesus Christ and they're able to say, "He's my Lord. He's my Savior. He's my Father."

There's a difference, friend. Can you sing like that? Can you sing like that knowing that he is your heavenly Father? Knowing that Christ is your Lord, your Savior? Friends, you can't fake this. You can't fake it. It's my prayer today that you will know him, you'll be able to say like Moses, "He's my God. He's my Lord. He's my Savior."