

“It Is what It Is”

It Is what it is...but it is not what it looks like!

The Children Of Israel were facing the sea...

- The children of Israel was fleeing for their life.
- Pharaoh had finally released them....but then changed his mind.
- He sent his army to stop them from crossing the Red Sea.

Exodus 14:9-12 (NIV) - ⁹The Egyptians—all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots, horsemen and troops—pursued the Israelites and overtook them as they camped by the sea near Pi Hahiroth, opposite Baal Zephon.¹⁰ As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. **They were terrified and cried out to the LORD. (trapped against the sea)**¹¹ They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of **Egypt?(Rep’s SIN)** ¹² Didn’t we say to you in Egypt, ‘Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians’? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!”

After watching God’s powerful hand deliver them from Egypt; their only response was FEAR, WHINING, and DESPAIR 😞

- **WHERE** was their trust in God?
- Their Lack of Faith in God is startling!!!
- Israel had to learn from repeated experience that God was able to provide for them!!!
- By focusing on God’s faithfulness IN THE PAST, we can face crises with confidence!!!

Exodus 14:13-16 (NIV) - ¹³ Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. ¹⁴ **The Lord** will fight for you; you need only to be still.”¹⁵ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on.¹⁶ Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground.”

When it looked as if they were trapped, Moses called upon God to intervene.

We may not be chased by an army, but we may still feel trapped...

- Instead of giving into despair, we should adopt Moses' attitude –
- STAND FIRM -
- See the DELIVERANCE the LORD will bring!!!

*****The Issue of Blood**

- After she spent all she had
- After she had no other place to go
- She knew that she too...had to stand

Mark 5:25-34 – NIV - ²⁵ And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. ²⁶ She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse.

It is what it is... but it is not what it looks like....

²⁷ When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸ because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." ²⁹ Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

³⁰ At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "**Who touched my clothes?**" ³¹ "You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?' " ³² But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it.

³³ Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. ³⁴ He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

Sometimes we feel that our problems will keep us from God!

- But he is always ready to help, no matter how impossible the problems seem to us!!!!

We should NEVER allow our FEAR to keep us from approaching him!!!!

- **One More River To Cross - It is what it is....but it is not what it looks like!!!!**

*****Jairus's daughter was dead!!!!**

It is what it is...but it is not what it looks like...

Mark 5:22-23 - NIV

²² Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. ²³ He pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and **put your hands on her** so that she will be healed and live."

Mark 5:38 - NIV

³⁸ When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly.

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Mark 5:39-42 - NIV

³⁹ He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." ⁴⁰ But they laughed at him.

Jesus used the image of sleep, to indicate her condition was temporary!!!!

After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. ⁴¹ He took her by the hand and said to her, "*Talitha koum!*" (which means "Little girl, I say to you, **get up!**"). ⁴² **Immediately** the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished.

YOUR CONDITION IS TEMPORARY!!! YOU WILL BE RESTORED!!!!

It is what it is...but it is not what it looks like!!!!

*****3 Hebrew boys were thrown into the fire...**

It is what it is...but it is not what it looks like....

Daniel 3:19-27 - NIV

¹⁹ Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual ²⁰ and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. ²¹ So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. ²² The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, ²³ and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.

It is what it is...but it is not what it looks like...

²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?"

They replied, "Certainly, Your Majesty."

²⁵ He said, "Look! **I see four men walking around in the fire**, unbound and unharmed, and the **fourth looks like a son of the gods.**"

²⁶ Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, **servants of the Most High God**, come out! Come here!"

So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, ²⁷ and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire **had not harmed** their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.

NO human can bind us if God wants us to be free!!!

The SAME power is available to us that freed the 3 Hebrew boys!!!!!!

It is what it is...but it is not what it looks like!!!!!!

*****Widow was going to eat her last meal and die...**

It is what it is...but it is not what it looks like....

1 Kings 17:9-16 - NIV

⁹ “Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food.” ¹⁰ So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, “Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?” ¹¹ As she was going to get it, he called, “And bring me, please, a piece of bread.” ¹² “As surely as the **LORD** your God lives,” she replied, “I don’t have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may **eat it—and die.**”

It is what it is...but it is not what it looks like...

No matter how bitter our trials or how seemingly hopeless our situation, we should look for God’s caring touch!!!!

¹³ Elijah said to her, “**Don’t be afraid.** Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. ¹⁴ For this is what **the LORD, the God of Israel, says:** ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the land.’”

It is what it is...but it is not what it looks like....

¹⁵ She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. ¹⁶ For **the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry,** in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah.

A simple act of FAITH produced a miracle! We may not see the solution until we take the first step of Faith!!!!

**Even when God has done a miracle in our lives, our troubles are not over!
Depend on him! - It is what it is...but it is not what it looks like!!!!**

*****Lazarus was dead... - It is what it is...but it is not what it looks like...**

John 11:1-3 (NIV) - Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) ³ So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick."

When we need extraordinary help, Jesus offers extraordinary resources!

DO NOT hesitate to ask HIM for assistance!!!!

John 11:14 NIV - ¹⁴ So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead,

John 11:17 NIV - ¹⁷ On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.

John 11:21 NIV - ²¹ "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

John 11:32-35 NIV - ³² When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. ³⁴ "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. ³⁵ Jesus wept.

Jesus not only raised Lazarus and Himself from the dead, He has the power to raise you from the dead!!!!

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John 11:38-39 NIV - ³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹ "Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days." **It is what it is...but it is not what it looks like...**

John 11:43-44 NIV - ⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, **"Take off the grave clothes and let him go."**

CLOSE: Jesus raised others from the dead –

He wants to raise you from your dead and seemingly hopeless situation you find yourself in today!!!!

*****Jesus was put on the cross.... - It is what it is...but it is not what it looks like....**

Luke 23:44-46 (NIV) - ⁴⁴It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

It had seemed that ALL hope was lost!!!!
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Luke 24:1-3 (NIV) Jesus Has Risen

24 On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

Do you expect Jesus to be alive in the world and the church????

Close:

Look for signs of his power – they are ALL around you!!!!

It Is What it is....

But It is Not What It looks Like!!!!

- 1. Children Of Israel were facing the sea...**
- 2. The Issue of Blood**
- 3. Jairus's daughter was dead!!!!**
- 4. 3 Hebrew boys were thrown into the fire...**
- 5. Widow was going to eat her last meal and die...**
- 6. Lazarus was dead!!!!**
- 7. Jesus was put on the cross....**