

“When Pharaoh finally let the people go, God did not lead them along the main road that runs through Philistine territory, even though that was the shortest route to the Promised Land. God said, “If the people are faced with a battle, they might change their minds and return to Egypt.” So God led them in a roundabout way through the wilderness toward the Red Sea. Thus the Israelites left Egypt like an army ready for battle.” Exodus 13:17-18 NLT

lectio // Exodus 13:17-22

Humans make plans, unless of course you are a slave for 400 years - slaves don't make plans - they only have dreams. There may have been over a million people, but they were not all ready to take on a war. Moses records, God said, “if.” God knew they wouldn't make it through their first war. There's a lot of talk about getting Egypt out of Israel, but we now know that was a 40 yr plan as well. How hard is it to go from slave to son? Moses knew, but couldn't articulate it. Your “freedom” to choice is VERY limited. God led them to the Red Sea. God led them to a DEAD END instead of war. This is where no slave nor free, not leader nor a powerful Pharaoh could do anything. Life lesson: When you are led to a dead end, you know you are not in control. God has to supernaturally open something for you. But isn't there a short cut? Isn't there an easier way to get there? Yes, but God knows we won't make it that way. Faith, trust and switching mindsets takes awhile. Slave to son is not so easy. As a slave I have few choices, as a son I have all choice. As a slave I have zero freedom, as a son I have total freedom. As a slave I am forced to obey or love, as a son I have options.

oratio

pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,

When someone is born into slavery, it is difficult to understand the freedoms and responsibilities of a son. It is a mindset that is not easily changed. As I reflect on the struggles of Israel, I am reminded of my own struggles. My children do not know the grief of not knowing their mother or having multiple fathers or the instability of chaos caused by broken parents and generations of poor family choices. They've only known safety and stability, love and good family stories. It's not that our family is perfect, because it is far from that. However, the foundation, the start gives them a very perspective on building their own life and family.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root