

Kev's eGroup sermon notes
Sunday, Oct. 27, 2019
Pastor Steven Furtick
Sermon Title: "The Sticking Point"

Elevation Worship:

- My Testimony: https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=my+testimony+by+elevation+worship
- I Raise A Halleluiah (And the story behind it b Bethel Church):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=awkO61T6iOk>
- New Awesome Song: Graves to Gardens: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6qFydIBi0hw>
- See A Victory - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YNd-PbVhmvA>

Scripture:

- Ex 14: 10 to 19: Exodus 14 New International Version (NIV): 14 Then the Lord said to Moses, 2 "Tell the Israelites to turn back and encamp near Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. They are to encamp by the sea, directly opposite Baal Zephon. 3 Pharaoh will think, 'The Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert.' 4 And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord." So the Israelites did this. 5 When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds about them and said, "What have we done? We have let the Israelites go and have lost their services!" 6 So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him. 7 He took six hundred of the best chariots, along with all the other chariots of Egypt, with officers over all of them. 8 The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, so that he pursued the Israelites, who were marching out boldly. 9 The Egyptians—all Pharaoh's horses and chariots, horsemen[a] 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. 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? 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!" 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. 17 I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. 18 The Egyptians will know that I am the Lord when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen." 19 Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, 20 coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.
- Exodus 4 New International Version (NIV): Signs for Moses - 4 Moses answered, "What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The Lord did not appear to you'?" 2 Then the Lord said to him, "What is that in your hand?" "A staff," he replied. 3 The Lord said, "Throw it on the ground." Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it. 4 Then the Lord said to him, "Reach out your hand and take it by the tail." So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand. 5 "This," said the Lord, "is so that they may believe that the Lord, the God of their fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has appeared to you."

- Deuteronomy 3: Moses Forbidden to Cross the Jordan - 21 At that time I commanded Joshua: "You have seen with your own eyes all that the Lord your God has done to these two kings. The Lord will do the same to all the kingdoms over there where you are going. 22 Do not be afraid of them; the Lord your God himself will fight for you." 23 At that time I pleaded with the Lord: 24 "Sovereign Lord, you have begun to show to your servant your greatness and your strong hand. For what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do the deeds and mighty works you do? 25 Let me go over and see the good land beyond the Jordan—that fine hill country and Lebanon." 26 But because of you the Lord was angry with me and would not listen to me. "That is enough," the Lord said. "Do not speak to me anymore about this matter. 27 Go up to the top of Pisgah and look west and north and south and east. Look at the land with your own eyes, since you are not going to cross this Jordan. 28 But commission Joshua, and encourage and strengthen him, for he will lead this people across and will cause them to inherit the land that you will see." 29 So we stayed in the valley near Beth Peor.

Sermon Notes – "The Sticking Point" by Pastor Furtick

- Opening prayer by Pastor Furtick: King of Kings and Lord of Lords - Jesus is your name - we bless you and honor you - respect you and admire you - and adore you. But really, we want you to know that we need you. For the things that we encounter as human beings - that we cannot understand at the level of our existence - we need divinity - please direct our paths - something that you want to remind us of - something you want to show us - something you want to reveal in us - and whatever it is - clear out the debris of disappointment that has accumulated in our souls this week – a place for your glory to dwell - and we revere you - can we worship you- and we praise you - in Jesus name. Amen
- And a special welcome to our eFamily all around the world.
- See Ex 14: 10 to 19.
- I would like to call your attention to something that came up in a discussion with our creative team that related to the process of songwriting and sermon preparation.
- The question was: Which do I do enjoy more?
- And my answer was it depends on which part of the process you catch me in.
- There are times when a sermon idea will come to me and I will feel enlightened, spiritual, and confident – and I can't wait to preach it – and I can't wait to put a brand-new 9 V battery my microphone.
- However, five minutes later I have the same idea and it seems so ridiculous.
- The process of creativity has certain points called the sticking points.
- Today's sermon title is called "The sticking points."
- **Everything that you love in life is going to have part of the process that you don't like - that is going to tempt you to quit - it doesn't mean you don't love it.**
- I'm not sure when we all started to think that we have to like love everything we do – which compels us to do things like quitting a job because we don't "feel it."
- **We don't have to love everything all the time.**
- Because everything you love is going to have a sticking point - it is going to have parts that you do not prefer.
- Now look straight ahead when I say this - every person that you love is going to have some parts that you don't prefer - or that you want to change.
- Pastor Furtick classic: Where I hear someone say - he's perfect and I love him - and he has no faults - come on honey - you're just dating and you have only known him for 14 days."
- **Jesus says that the kingdom of heaven is like a man who finds a treasure - and he was excited - and he liked the treasure so much that he sold everything and purchased the field that the treasure was in. So, if you want the treasure, you've got to buy the field. We want the treasure but not the dirt that comes around it. We only want the treasure or the blessings – only those joyful moments.**

- Even if you love your marriage, there will be times when you want to take the remote and change the channel without a vote. Even if you love your kids, there will be times when you secretly Google adoption agencies in order to pursue other options. (Pastor Furtick sarcasm).
- I love preaching – Yes, there times when I’m preaching that I feel the Holy Spirit - and there are times when I feel another spirit - the spirit of stress – and the spirit of anxiety.
- **The sticking point is the point where you doubt the things that you are secure in. It is the point where your mood doesn’t match the mission - but you got to push through anyway because you have something important to do.**
- There’s no better example in the Bible in Exodus 14 - where God leads the Hebrew people out of Israel through the Red Sea.
- Did you notice something in my set up today - I said “through” the Red Sea and not over it on a boat.
- We are all going through something right now.
- And we are all at a sticking point - sometimes it’s state of mind - where we are not stuck in our situation - but stuck in our state of mind.
- Recall the humorous story of Pastor Furtick being stuck in Chicago with her his wife Holly – including a “marriage enrichment seminar” in a hotel room. It wasn’t the situation we were stuck in - the reason we find ourselves as stuck in Chicago was because it was not on our schedule.
- See Ex 14 vs. 10.
- And God gives Moses the wisdom to get his people out - because there comes a point where God sees you stuck - and he realizes that you cannot get yourself out of the situation - so he says I heard the cries of my people have come down to them - when he chose Moses to do it, God knew all about Moses’ brokenness - and He knew all about Moses’ reluctance.
- Sticking point is a negotiation term - and the Pharaoh agreed to let the Hebrew people go after 10 plagues and some negotiation.
- In business negotiations, we call the sticking point the thing that kills a deal.
- And we also have sticking points in our faith and with our relationships.
- **And you have a sticking point in your life where you come as far as you can come - and God comes down and He sees you struggling - and he does for you what you cannot do yourself.**
- See Exodus 14: 10. Hu? What is Pharaoh doing in the picture - did he not agree to let the Hebrew people go?
- If you grew up in church complete the sentence: where God guides _____.
- **Where God guides, he provides.**
- **Here another church saying: Where God does not guide, He still provides.**
- Because he so good. Have you ever had God bless you when you’re going backwards and doing the wrong stuff?
- Elijah in the Bible was running from Jezebel in the wrong direction of his assignment – and he laid down and wanted to die - even though he had seen God do great things – and he was running from his assignment and God fed him with an angel food cake.
- Don’t look at me today and tell me that you always eat because you’re always good.
- **We all know that we didn’t deserve it - and we didn’t earn it – we didn’t pray enough to get it – and we did not quote Philippians enough earn it – and we didn’t always take the right turn - or follow the North Star - but God tracked us down on route 3 and blessed us anyway. God feeds us even when we flee from him.**
- Where God guides, he provides - and even if he doesn’t, he will continue to take care of you - because you are His.
- **And I want to add one more: So, they are leaving Egypt and here comes their enemy Pharaoh behind them. So, they hear the clickety clack of Pharaoh’s troops. These are fast chariots because they are Pharaoh’s**

best. So, the Hebrews looked back at something they could not go through and looked forward to something they couldn't get over. Where God guides, Pharaoh follows.

- In negotiation terms, the Hebrews reached a sticking point.
- Here's a little seminar on negotiation - if someone is holding onto something in a negotiation - that means it is valuable - if they don't let it go easy - that means it has great worth.
- **The devil has not been letting you go easy. And you can try to shake this for a long time - and if the devil is real and destiny is a fact and not just a concept or a fantasy - maybe the reason it has been so difficult for to let you go is because what you carry is of such great value. Some of you are in a sticking point right now - and Pharaoh will not let you go easy - because once you get through this - there's great glory after this.**
- If during the negotiation someone throws an added benefit in - you know it probably isn't worth a lot.
- If you're ever tried to get out of addiction or depression - and you just stop with the porn or stop with the pills - this is a sticking point for some of you - you have been flushing it, but yet you keep buying it again - and you been deleting it but keep putting it back - and you been walking away from it - but then you feel drawn to it.
- **I want to tell you today - when you get stuck, you are on the verge of something significant - God has his hand in your life. God guides and Pharaoh follows. The proof of God's activity in your life will often be the increase of resistance.**
- The sticking point that the Hebrews are dealing with is not like being stuck in Chicago overnight.
- Paul calls this the pounding panic of trauma from a lifetime of bondage.
- In verse 11, the Hebrew people are fighting the person that is helping them.
- Parents - don't worry about this - they will thank you one day - if you don't kill them first ☺.
- **Let's all admit something: when we get stuck, we get stupid.**
- I'm not saying you are stupid.
- For me, some of the dumbest things I've done was because I was sick of being stuck - and I decided to that I was just gonna do something - and that something was usually something stupid.
- Recall humorous story of Pastor Furtick's son Elijah coming into the bedroom with something stuck on his braces.
- Perhaps you should hold off dating for six months until you get over the last heartbreak.
- **When you get stuck - you reach for stuff - you reach for the stuff that you used to flush - when you get lonely - when you get hungry - when you get tired - when you get stuck - you do something stupid - now I have a Timeshare that I can't get rid of.**
- We didn't do it because we do not love God - we do it because we got stuck - and then when you get to the sticking point others say rejoice - and you say I can't because I'm stuck - stuck in a memory - stuck in a pattern - stuck in a generational thing that started before I was born - stuck preparing sermons.
- Because when I get stuck preparing sermons - I just want to give up on everything that I worked on.
- Please don't think I'm preaching to you about preaching - I am talking about preaching because that's where I get stuck - I figure you might get stuck in something else too.
- When preparing for a sermon - I get to a point where none of it makes sense - for those that are 40 and over remember when we had antennas for the TV - and there was no reception - and all we got is a grainy signal.
- Recall Pastor Steven's awesome rapid soliloquy on how to start a sermon on Exodus 14.
- And I get so stuck that I don't want to say anything.
- And I figure you get stuck too sometimes.
- And this is not the first time you got stuck - and this isn't the first time that Moses got stuck.
- And this is the good thing about it - if God did it before, He can do it again.
- We don't always get stuck at the external circumstance.
- **Sometimes we get stuck in ourselves. Sometimes stuck is a state of mind. Sometimes we get stuck and not where we are - but we're we were supposed to be - in our plan for our life.**

- Sometimes, we get stuck not necessarily in what it is - but in what I thought it was going to be - I get stuck in supposed to.
- Have you ever been stuck in supposed to?
- My kids were supposed to be valedictorians.
- I was supposed to be married still.
- I was supposed to retire by now.
- I was supposed to be married - my roommate got married and she's nuts - and I'm a good person - I am a good Christian girl and I sing in the choir at elevation Ballantyne - and I'm supposed to be married.
- Some of us are stuck in what we are supposed to be.
- And we get stuck in a season.
- **And on Friday nights trucks in Low Country South Carolina, would drive in the mud and get stuck on purpose. I learned something from this - you don't get stuck in anything that is shallow. If you get stuck that means you're in the deep stuff. Perhaps God is doing something deep in your life when you feel stuck. When you feel stuck perhaps your building strength.**
- To really build strength is to get to that sticking point - to get to that point where you can't push through.
- Recall the importance of a spotter while bench pressing free weights.
- A bad spotter will lift most of the weight and not let you work hard - this is not a good God.
- Without challenge or exertion, how would God grow your faith?
- **A good weight lift spotter will let you get to rep 11 before applying help - we're just a little stuck - and God is standing over your life - because you are stuck at that sticking point - where God says I'm not going to get this off of you - I'm just going to give you a little bit of a lift. Have you ever let God be your spotter? I declare that angel armies are standing over your life - and if you feel stuck - He will do what you cannot do - He is your strength - and God knows how to get you past the point where your stuck.**
- The first sticking point that Moses encountered was not Pharaoh - the first sticking point that Moses encountered was when he tried to negotiate with God.
- And he got stuck at the burning bush.
- God says I chose you - while he is tending sheep for Jethro - and had been doing this for 40 years - because he got mad at somebody and killed them - because when we get stuck, we get stupid.
- Now he's doing something as a consequence of a prior decision.
- And God tells Moses to go to Pharaoh to let the Hebrew people go.
- See Exodus 4:1
- At times we might be stuck in ourselves.
- We can't control other people and we cannot control a future event.
- This is the dilemma that Moses is facing. So Moses is stuck - and he stuck for good reason - because he knows himself - and to negotiate with God is not a good idea - so Moses is stuck within himself.
- Moses is stuck in a story as to what is going to happen.
- Have you ever been stuck in story of what might happen?
- Rejection is painful - however Moses takes it to a new level.
- He rejects himself before anyone else has a chance to.
- This is pre-rejection or advanced level rejection.
- We already did a negotiation seminar today - and I certainly don't want to do a dating seminar today - but when you ask her out on a date - you need to have some confidence to this process - say this: Which day am I going to pick you up for dinner - Tuesday or Wednesday?
- Key point: The bigger story does not revolve around you.
- Remember that.

- **When we get stuck, we miss the whole point that God is doing something in us – that is bigger than us. It is bigger than what is wrong with you - it's bigger than what you didn't do - is bigger than the time you wasted - and is certainly bigger than the useless opinions of others.**
- In Exodus 4 God gives Moses this pep talk.
- What is that in your hand?
- The Bible calls a staff - however let's give it a technical term - call it a stick.
- **For every sticking point in your life, God has given you a stick. And you've got one right now.**
- In order for Moses to see what the instrument could be - he had to release it and throw down on the ground - when he released it on the ground, it became a snake - until you surrender it, you will never see what it has the potential to become.
- **If you will release it – and report it before God - if you say here's my intellect - here's my will - here's my understanding - here's my ability - you can watch it transform. For Moses, the staff became a snake in order to become a sign - that this was really God - because Moses was stuck within himself - and when you need to get out of yourself - you have to release what God is giving you - and show you what it can become.**
- Then Moses had to do something crazy - after running away from the snake that was formally a stick - God then commanded Moses to reach for what he had been running from.
- And when Moses did this, the snake turned back into a stick.
- For many of us this is our first rodeo - you've never been 16 before. You've never been 61 before. You've never been a wife before. You've never been a dad before.
- Can I tell you what God told Moses?
- By the power of the Holy Spirit, Moses stood in front of those Red Seas in his life - God took him back and showed them the same stick – the same stick that was changed into a snake and then back to a stick – and take the same stick to point at what Moses was going through - see Exodus 14:16.
- **Take your stick and pointed at what you cannot get over - I know it is small - it always feels small. Some of you are visited by the perpetual spirit of “not enough” – but - it becomes enough when you stretch it. It becomes enough when you use it - this is the miracle of faith - God changes things - this is what he does. He turns morning to dancing. He gives beauty for ashes. He turns shame into glory. He turns crosses into empty tombs. He turns graves into gardens. He turns bones and armies. He turned seas in the highways. And if you stretch what he gave you over what you are going through - you're gonna get through this. I declare it and I decree it.**
- God said it and that settles it.
- I know it feels small - and I know for many, your energy has diminished after what you've gone through - and some of you feel too young and some of you feel too old - and some of you feel in-between - shut up and trust your stuff.
- And don't do something stupid like give up and quit - just because you feel tired.
- Grab your stick and preach it.
- Don't stop doing what you are doing just because you're tired.
- God is enough - what he gave you is enough for what he put you.
- The saddest thing in the world is that Moses never went into the promised land.
- He got stuck.
- Moses hit a rock with his staff - the same staff that open the Red Sea.
- Moses struck the rock twice because he was tired of all the complaints from the Hebrew people.
- And God said - you can't go in because you don't trust me enough.
- See Deuteronomy 3 – so sad.
- **In everything that you love, will have a part of the process that you don't like - including following Jesus.**
- Because everything that you love will have a part that you do not like.

- **I'm sick of my generation always having to feel the need to be happy in order to move forward. Sometimes we can do it because we love God enough - and we are called - and because we have a staff - and we have to stick it out - and we have to persevere - because we have a purpose and because we have a reason. We have come too far to get stuck.**
- Some of you came from broken homes – or broken families or busted situations - and God would not bring you out into the depths so that He can drown you - he's dealing with your enemies - stretch your stick - entrust your stuff – move forward.
- And press on - it's such a small thing - keep showing up.
- **And if you trust him enough to stretch a small thing over the bigger thing – imagine - and see yourself on the other side of this – what is it going to be like when you're helping someone else out – and all the hell that you went through wasn't wasted - but is invested. Be strong in your spirit - get past the sticking point - because you have a spotter – God will not let it fall and you - you have to imagine this – okay - I will rejoice again - I will sing again - in my children will be free because I fight for this.**
- But you will have to commit – and you have to work through it – and this means you have to walk through somethings that feels like it could collapse any time.
- And for Moses, God turned to the Red Sea into a highway. Who else can do that?
- The ability to walk through something - that God is holding up for you - you can't Hokey Pokey through this thing - it means you sing this: God, I am going to see this through - and I am going to stay in this uncomfortable place - and be stuck for a little bit - while I see God's purpose revealed in my life.
- Because when you're standing in front of something that you have never seen before - hold onto what you know – you got a stick – and when you come across a sticking point - a mood or mother-in-law - or something deep and dark that we can talk about this morning - use your stick.
- **Small, Trust, Imagine, Commit, Know. This spells: Stick.**
- Closing prayer as quoted by Pastor Furtick: "Father as your word has gone forth today - there is someone somewhere who needs this message - and there someone that is at a sticking point - and what they do next will determine so much - as to whether they stay stuck or move forward. Thank you, Lord. Glory to your name. Thank you, Jesus. Blessed be your name. Holy is your name. Worthy is your name. When the Hebrew people got to the other side of the Red Sea, they sang. Sometimes we have to sing when we are on the wrong side. Sometimes we have to sing when we feel pain and we have to offer God a sacrifice of praise. He turns mourning to dancing. He gives beauty for ashes. He turns shame into glory. He turns crosses in the two empty tombs. He turns graves into gardens. He turns bones and armies. He turned sees in the highways. Amen."

