

# I Will Sing Unto the Lord

*Then Miriam, the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women followed her, with tambourines and dancing. Miriam sang to them: 'Sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea.'* (Exodus 15:20-21)

Do you know the song that was written from these words in Exodus? I learned it thirty years ago in Stuttgart, Arkansas, when I was a teacher at St. John Lutheran School. It was sung in harmony by Nelda Braunschweig and her daughters when our young faculty gathered at Nelda's house on Sunday evenings for supper. I have not forgotten the words or melody of this song, and I still hum it in good times and in bad times. The Braunschweig girls sang this song "joyfully united in spirit" with such zeal, and their love for the Lord was so evident. They had no idea of the impact this song would still have on me years later.

In her youth, Miriam was probably the sister who watched over baby Moses when his mother hid him in a basket in the Nile River. The king of Egypt had proclaimed that Hebrew baby boys should be killed, but she protected her brother. It was this sister of Moses who spoke to Pharaoh's daughter and offered to bring a Hebrew woman (Moses' mother) to nurse him. As you read Exodus 2: 1-9, imagine the courage that it took for this young girl to watch over her baby brother and speak to Pharaoh's daughter.

In their adulthood, Miriam, Moses, and Aaron served as leaders of the Israelites. Miriam is described as a prophetess, and she is the first woman described that way in Scripture. When the armies of Pharaoh were closing in on the Israelites, the Lord allowed the Israelites to walk through the Red Sea on dry land before Pharaoh's armies were vanquished in the rushing waters. Moses and the Israelites sang a song of celebration for the Lord's intervention, but it was Miriam who led the women "joyfully united in spirit" in singing and dancing.

We might not have to worry about Pharaoh's army today, but we have plenty of battles with the devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh. When the Braunschweig girls were singing, I didn't sing along. Why not? Perhaps, the devil was saying, "Don't sing. This is odd. In this world, people don't just start singing praises to God in their kitchens." Perhaps, it was my own sinful flesh that reminded me that I couldn't sing as well as the Braunschweig girls. It doesn't really matter anymore, because today I am singing!

Closing Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for the young women of our church who courageously, eagerly, and joyfully sing your praises. Forgive us when vanity or pride prevents us from singing along and following their lead. Fill us with Your Spirit so that we may freely and fervently sing praises to You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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