

THE LEADERSHIP OF GOD

Exodus 13-14

I. Intro

- A. Happy Sunday Resolved Church! This is the first week of a new and adjusted format for how we worship together as a church family. You will notice that we still have our liturgy in the email to follow along with, so whether you are with your family, by yourself, or in a small group, we can still worship the LORD together in this unique time of history.
- B. We are doing a slightly different format for the sermon due to the quarantine orders. However, I believe that this is a unique opportunity to experience our life as Christians in a different, more personal way.
- C. It is providential that God has us working through this book of Exodus at this time of our nations history. It is providential that we titled the whole sermon series "Journeying with God together" because we are journeying through these unprecedented times with God together as a church family.

II. Remember

A. Feast of Remembrance

- 1. Every year the Israelites were to remember the Passover with the Feast of Unleavened Bread.
 - a) Purpose is to be reminded of the rescue out of slavery, a yearly remembrance
 - b) Weekly we remember our own salvation out of slavery to sin and fear. Jesus has taken the punishment reserved for us, and instead given us His perfect life of worship, love, and obedience as a gift so that we are forever seen as right in the Father's sight.
 - c) The Holy Spirit Himself gives us the power to obey God and not fall back into fear or slavery to sin anymore and former ways of life.
- 2. God's leadership is one which helps the people to remember His redemption by embedding it in physical rituals which prove very instructive.
- 3. I believe that God as instituted the sacrament of the Lord's Supper because we are so prone to forgetting, even week to week things can be different.
 - a) Last week to this week has proved to be dramatically different, to the point where we aren't even allowed to meet for the foreseeable future. However, one of the practices which helps to ground us in our identity in this time is the Lord's Supper. It is the common ritual that binds us together and reminds us of our own salvation and freedom.

B. Sacrifice of Thanksgiving

- 1. Every firstborn of beast was offered to God as a sacrifice of thanksgiving
- 2. Every firstborn in a household was redeemed, given back to God, with a payment to God. Another way to remember the sacrifice that God provided for safety and salvation. The Egyptians paid the price of the Israelites freedom. To redeem means to buy back. The firstborn of all Israelite families were set apart and an

offering was made to God as a reminder of how God bought back His people with the death of all the firstborns in Egypt. Death was necessary to preserve life.

- a) We no longer offer these kinds of sacrifices, obviously, but that doesn't mean that we aren't called to offer sacrifices of Thanksgiving still.
 - (1) We can do this through our time, talent, and treasures
- b) *"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."* - Romans 12:1-2
- c) Foreshadowing of how Jesus, the first born of God's family, was sacrificed in order to make life possible for all the rest of God's children. God paid that price because we could not afford it. We are of infinite value to our heavenly Father! Why do we ever doubt that He will take care of us?

III. Rescue

A. Comfort and Guidance

- 1. In each and every circumstance God was shading, warming, guiding
 - a) The pillar of cloud produced the shade
 - b) The pillar of fire warmed the people in the cold desert nights
- 2. God demonstrates what godly leadership is: both bringing comfort to the people as well as guiding them to where they need to go to be with God
- 3. This ought to remind us that God is in the business of comforting us when the scorching heat of affliction starts to burn in our lives. He brings the coolness of His presence to calm
- 4. When the coldness of loneliness or despair creeps in, His presence warms my heart and gives me the courage to press forward, knowing that He is with me and that I am adopted into an eternal family of families.

B. Final confrontation and forever freedom

- 1. God has the Israelites move around so it looks like they are wandering lost in the wilderness. This was intended to draw Pharaoh out in order that God might deal the final victory over the enemy of His people
 - a) What are the Israelites feeling as they see this army approaching?
 - (1) Confused. Dismayed. Angry. Scared.
 - (a) Brought into an impossible situation only to die in this wilderness
 - i) We might feel this way right now with the COVID pandemic and our governments quarantine orders. Some of us may see our income drop dramatically, or even lose our jobs altogether. We might feel scared that we don't know where our next meal may come from, or how we are going to pay rent or mortgage. Will I even have a job after this is all over? What is going to happen for my kids and their schooling long-term?

- (b) God has sovereignly guided us a nation and a church into this situation. Each of us has our own ways in which we are being challenged. In each of our lives and situations God has brought us exactly where we need to be where we must daily lean on Him and trust Him for His perfect provision. He always provides for His people, sometimes in huge and miraculous ways, and often time through smaller, yet no less miraculous, ways.
- (c) For some of us, the situations we find ourselves in may seem impossible, and it is more important than ever to remember that God is WITH YOU! HE will fight for you, you have only to be silent and watch the miraculous rescue and provision of God.
 - i) This is a time for us as a church to be family of God together. Let us keep in touch with one another through one of the many many ways our technology has provided. Let one another know how you are really doing, and if any has needs, to seek to meet those needs as best you can.
 - (1) Grocery runs are now opportunities for serving your neighbors and each other. Sharing TP?
- (d) For some of us, we might feel angry that we have been put in this position. If I am being honest, I personally wrestle with these thoughts myself, and it is important for me to remember that this is not a punishment, but an opportunity for growth. To grow in different ways with the LORD. To see my rut of routine get shaken up a bit, and to focus on personal health.
- (e) I believe that we must see this time as opportunities for growth. To grow in health and maturity. God is giving us the space and time to literally slow down our pace of life and to focus on the things which truly matter long term: our relationships. We are all stuck at our homes, and this too provides opportunities to grow in having healthy relationships, to learn to love your spouse again, or to play more with the kids, or to perfect that hobby you have been wanting to do for so long.
- (f) We can either be like the Israelites and see this situation as a curse, or we can choose to see the good that God is intending to bring to us in this time! How we choose to see this time of our city's life will greatly determine how we come out of this, either grumbling and complaining, or having grown in ways that my life hadn't allowed for before.

2. God brings them through the sea in a miraculous way

- a) God moves behind the congregation to shield them and confuse the Egyptians. God brings a wind which parts the waters so that there is an avenue by which the people can walk
- b) God causes the waters to crash down, permanently defeating the enemy of His people.
- c) This is a permanent separation from Egypt. There is no going back now.
- d) For those of us in Christ, there is no going back to the world. We are permanent citizens of heaven and the kingdom of God here and now. The sea of death as been pushed away, and I walk into freedom.
 - (1) Notice that they didn't run, or flee, but they walked. The way was made smooth and easy for them to get to the other side and experience freedom. Jesus makes the way smooth and easy. His life was given so that I would be allowed to walk right up to God and speak to Him as to a friend or good Father.

3. At the end of the scene we see that God got glory over Pharaoh, and His people believed in Him
 - a) Glory
 - b) Trust
 - c) I believe that God has brought us as a nation, and more specifically as the Church, to a place where we will see God get much glory for Himself, and will see us grow in our own trust and faith in Him as we see God provide and protect His people in many and miraculous ways that we will pass onto our children for generations to come!
 - d) Let's pray