

What Does The Exodus Mean To Us?

Sermon Outline; 7/14/16; Tri City church of Christ

Have you ever been in a situation where you're surrounded by a group of people who have some kind of history together, and they're all sitting around talking to each other about all the times they had together, and you have no idea who or what they're talking about and it you're just kind of confused? Maybe you're at a family party and you're with a bunch of people who're just reminiscing and telling each other all kinds of stories about people and places you aren't familiar with. Or maybe you're with a group of former classmates who have had tons of experiences together, and they're telling stories about old classmates of theirs and different things they did when they were in school together, and you just don't really know what they're talking about. For example, before I went to Florida College, I used to hear stories from people who went there all the time, and I would usually have no clue who or what they were talking about, so it didn't mean much to me. But now that I go to FC, I have tons of stories and memories myself that I cherish and that mean a great deal to me. Well, today, I want to talk to you all about a story none of us were there to experience, involving people none of us really know; but it's *our* story. It's my story, and it's your story. Turn to 1 Corinthians 10.

- I. Why should we care about the Exodus? 1 Corinthians 10:1-4
 - a. This passage prefaces Paul's warning against idolatry to the Corinthians. Many of the Corinthians were Gentiles and came from Pagan backgrounds, so idolatry would have been a big problem in the Corinthian church.
 - b. Despite this Gentile/Pagan background, Paul still uses the phrase "our fathers" in verse 1, referring to the Israelites.
 - i. In using this phraseology, Paul is acknowledging that the story of the Exodus is no longer a story exclusive to the Jews, but it is a shared story of victory for all who are in Jesus Christ, and we can all learn from it.
 - ii. 2 or 3 times throughout the chapter, Paul explains that these things were written as an example for us (verses 6 and 11). We should study and learn from the experiences of the Israelites.
 - c. Today, I'm not going to be speaking on idolatry, but I would like to study the Exodus, because it paints a beautiful picture of God's will for us. I would like to see what patterns and themes we can see in the story of the Exodus, and how we can apply them to our lives to make this *our* story.
- II. **What** situation were the Israelites in? Turn to Exodus 1

- a. In the last 14 chapters of Genesis, we learn the story of how Joseph was sold as a slave into Egypt, and through God’s providence ended up saving his family and the Egyptians from a famine, and becoming second in command in Egypt. Read Exodus 1:8-14.
 - i. There was a new king of Egypt knew nothing about Joseph. He had no idea what Joseph had done for the nation of Israel. He was scared of the growth of the Israelites in Egypt, and chose to **enslave** them.
 - ii. The Bible is filled with themes or “threads” that are woven throughout the entire Bible. We can see one of those threads here, Joseph was enslaved, but by the power of God, rose to victory. Now the descendants of Joseph are enslaved in the very same nation in which he was enslaved. The thread we can notice here is slavery, and God is the key to success.
 - b. Slavery was harsh for the people of Israel
 - i. **The** Israelites were dealt with shrewdly (v. 10)
 - ii. **The** Rulers were harsh, oppressive and ruthless (v. 12-14)
 - iii. **The** Israelites lives’ were made bitter with hard service (v. 14)
 - c. God provides a deliverer for the slaves.
 - i. Exodus 3; God calls Moses to deliverer the Israelites from slavery.
 - ii. Exodus 4:22-23; God tells Moses to warn Pharaoh that Israel is his firstborn son, and he threatens the firstborn son of Pharaoh if Pharaoh does not release the Israelites.
 - 1. This passage continues another thread: the father/son relationship. It shows us that God loved and cared for the nation of Israel similar to the way a father would love and care for his son; like the way Jacob loved and cared for Joseph. This is the love God had for Israel
 - 2. It also foreshadows the tenth plague, which is threatened to Egypt in Exodus 11:1-10. The end is in sight, and victory is within reach for the Israelites.
- III. **What** does this Exodus mean to the Israelites?
- a. **The** Exodus first and foremost meant the end of slavery.
 - i. Slavery, as we discussed was extremely oppressive. The Egyptians were harsh and ruthless.

ii. This is probably the biggest moment in Israelite history. Slavery in North America was absolutely awful; lasting 245 years. The Civil War and the enactment of the 13th amendment were some of the most significant moments in United States history. The slavery in Egypt had been going on nearly twice as long as slavery in America, and the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt was without a doubt an absolutely monumental moment.

b. **This** also means the beginning of new life for the Israelites.

i. Turn to Exodus 12:1-2; in chapter 12, God is instituting the Passover, and a whole new calendar for the Jews.

ii. The Egyptian calendar that the Israelites have been bound to for the past 440 years now means nothing to them. They are beginning a new year, and a new life altogether.

c. **And** finally, this meant the Israelites would be saved by the blood of a lamb.

i. This is where the Passover comes into play. Ex. 12:1-8; 21-29 In order to protect the firstborn of the Israelite households from the wrath of God, they sacrificed a lamb. A lamb...

1. Without blemish

2. A year old (in the prime of life)

3. Taken from the sheep or the goats

4. Whose blood delivers the Israelites from God's wrath

5. Whose body becomes a memorial feast. Ex. 12:10-14

ii. The blood of the lamb would cover the household of the Israelites, and they would live because of it.

IV. What does this Exodus mean to us?

a. It is fulfilled through the life of Jesus.

i. John the Baptist saw Jesus coming towards him and said, "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."

ii. Paul in his first letter to Corinth wrote, "For Christ, our Passover lamb, also has been sacrificed."

1. **As** the Passover lamb was without blemish, Christ was without sin.

2. **As** the Passover lamb was in the prime of its life, Christ died in the prime of life as well.

3. **The Israelites** could be saved whether they had a sheep or a goat. Goats generally have a bad connotation throughout the Bible, and sheep generally have a positive connotation. The sheep were generally preferred and favored. But in this passage the lamb could be taken from the sheep or the goats. I believe that this might be the first instance of foreshadowing that Jesus would be the savior not only of the sheep, but also of the goats. He would be a savior not only of the Jews, but also of any Gentiles who obeyed the will of God. There would be no partiality in Christ.
 4. **As** the blood of the Passover lamb saved the Israelites from destruction, the blood of Christ saves us from death.
 - a. The wages of Sin is death (Romans 6:23)
 - b. Christ's blood helps us to escape spiritual death (Hebrews 9:11-22)
 5. **As** the Passover lamb became a memorial feast, Christ has also become a memorial feast for us to help us remember his sacrifice and what it means to us
 - a. Each week we eat the bread which represents his body which was broken for us and we drink the cup which represents the blood that was poured out for the forgiveness of our sins.
 - b. Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper the night he was betrayed, celebrating the Passover feast with the apostles. I cannot think of a more appropriate last supper for our Passover lamb than the Passover which he fulfilled.
- iii. **The Passover Lamb was fulfilled in Christ.** How was all this fulfilled and accomplished? Luke 9:28-36
1. Jesus fulfilled the story of the Exodus through His "departure"; through his death.
 2. Fittingly, the word "departure" in verse 31, is the Greek word *exodus*. Jesus fulfilled and accomplished all of this through his "exodus."

3. Jesus chose to partake in this “exodus” because He was fully committed to carrying out His father’s will, despite what it would cost him.
 - a. Jesus fulfilled the father-son relationship introduced in Exodus 4 to its fullest potential.
 - b. In His life, he succeeded where the Israelites failed (Wilderness temptation), completely obedient to the Father and innocent before Him.
 - c. In His death he showed us the dedication required to be sons of God by His willingness to carry out His Father’s will to the point of death.
- b. Because of this submission and dedication, the story of the Exodus is fulfilled in our lives today
 - i. **We have** all become slaves to sin. (John 8:34, Jesus says that all who commit sin become a slave to sin)
 - ii. **Sin is a harsh**, oppressive, and ruthless ruler, making our lives bitter in our service to it
 - iii. **The story of the Exodus**, fulfilled through Jesus Christ’s sacrifice and His blood, releases us from the bondage of sin. Our slavery is put to an end, and we are given new life just like the Israelites.

V. Conclusion

- a. Have you made this your story?
- b. You can be set free from slavery to sin through Christ, our Passover lamb. Romans 6:1-11, 16-18. Today, do you need to put on Christ? You’ve heard the gospel! You must...
 - i. Believe
 - ii. Repent of your sin; turn away from it
 - iii. Confess Christ as the Son of God
 - iv. Be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins.
- c. Maybe you’ve been set free by Christ, but for some reason Satan has tempted you to return to your bondage. In Exodus 16, the Israelites became hungry after their exodus and they actually wanted to return to their slavery in Egypt so they could be fed. Sin can be tempting and enticing, but as God shows the Israelites in chapter 16, he is still the ultimate provider. With God on your side, you’ll have everything you need. In Christ, you have everything to gain.

- d. Whether you want to submit your life to Christ or resubmit your life to Christ, we invite you to respond to this invitation, and come to the front, as we stand and sing.