

The Passover

Lesson for Sunday, February 25, 2024

INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ Stories and experiences shape our lives. Have you had any experiences that you will never forget? *Allow for some sharing...*
 - Listening for things like: moving to a new city, starting college, proposing to your wife...
 - When we come to Exodus, we find a story that was lifechanging for the Children of Israel: the Passover.
- ⇒ Throughout the Bible we read about the idea of remembering God's grace. It is an emphasized as a critical part of the Christian life. (See Nehemiah 4:14; Ecc. 12:1; Psalm 105:5; 2 Tim. 2:8.) It is important that we remind ourselves and others of all that God has done for us.
- ⇒ In today's classic text, God wanted His people to remember the exodus from Egypt, so He gave them a multi-sensory way to remember it: Passover.

BIBLE STUDY:

1. Remember the Substitute (Exodus 12:1-18)
 - a. In the USA, significant events can result in scheduled holidays. Think of Memorial Day, Labor Day and Veterans Day. These are times we set aside to remember what happened in the past. In Exodus 12 we find God doing something similar.
 - b. God changed the calendar of the Israelites so that they would celebrate Passover.
 - i. He told Moses and Aaron that there would be a new calendar and it would be a sign of a new beginning (vs. 1-2).
 - ii. POINT: God established their calendar based on theology. At the beginning of each year, they would remember God's great salvation.
 - iii. APPLY: God calls us to keep Him at the center of our lives. What do we do to make sure this happens?
 - c. God's instructions were given twice – vs. 1-13, 21-23.
 - i. Vs. 1-13 include the Lord's instructions to Moses.
 - ii. In vs. 21-23 Moses relays those instructions to the elders.
 - d. Here were the instructions:
 - i. Vs. 4: Take a lamb on the tenth day of this month for each household.
 - ii. Vs. 5: The lamb had to be a one-year old male without blemish.
 - iii. Vs. 6: It was selected on the tenth day and kept until the fourteenth day.
 - iv. Vs. 6-7: The lamb was to be killed at twilight.
 - v. Vs. 7: The blood of the lamb was to be applied to the doorposts.
 - vi. Vs. 8-11: God gave instructions on how they were to eat the lamb. It would be eaten with unleavened bread along with bitter herbs. The bitter herbs were a reminder of the bitterness they experienced in Egypt.
 - vii. Vs. 12-13: The blood on their doors served as a sign that judgment had already fallen at that house. It was a sign of God's mercy to Israel. They were not innocent based on their bloodline; they were found innocent because of the blood applied.
 - e. What did this represent to the Israelites and to us?
 - i. Vs. 4: The lamb served as a substitute.
 - ii. Vs. 5: Israel needed a perfect substitute, a perfect sacrifice. So do we!
 - iii. Vs. 6-7: The death of the substitute lamb was a vivid reminder of the judgment that everyone deserved.
 - iv. Vs. 7: The obedience of placing the blood on the doorposts showed that a person believed God would keep His word and pass over them, sparing them from judgment. *Salvation was accomplished by faith in the substitute.*

- v. Vs. 8-11: The use of unleavened bread and the instruction to wear their clothes in a certain manner revealed that they needed to be prepared at any moment to depart. It was a reminder that they must be ready to follow God at a moment's notice. We should also remember the bitterness from which God has saved us.
 - vi. Vs. 12-13: God will one day righteously judge all sinners. Just like the Israelites, we will only be found innocent if the blood of the Lamb has been applied in our own lives.
- 2. Remember the Severity and Mercy of God (12:29-32)
 - a. These are some of the most sobering verses in all of history. It is hard to imagine the scene. God judged all of Egypt without distinction.
 - i. He judged the rich and the poor, the good and the bad.
 - ii. The cries in the land extended to all people.
 - b. In Exodus 4:22-23, God told Moses what He was going to do. Here we see that God kept His word.
 - c. We would do well to remember the severity and mercy of God. We are all like Pharaoh. We all deserve to be judged. Thank God for our Substitute, the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - d. At this point, Pharaoh relented and released Israel. In verse 32, he is literally begging another to bless him!
 - e. Israel was finally free from slavery.
- 3. Remember God's Deliverance (12:33-42)
 - a. Vs. 35: God had told the Israelites to be ready to leave, and they were. As they were leaving the land, they pillaged the Egyptians as God commanded. God had remained faithful. Deliverance had arrived and He had provided for His people.
 - b. There are three promises in particular that are fulfilled in Israel's getting out of Egypt:
 - i. First, we see the fulfillment of Genesis 15:13-14.
 - ii. Second, the promise that they would be a great, multiplying nation had been fulfilled (see Genesis 12:2).
 - iii. Third, the nations were being blessed through the seed of Abraham (also Genesis 12:2). In Exodus 12:38 it says that "a mixed multitude went up also with them." This means people that were not descendants of Abraham. These are people who had seen the signs and believed!
 - c. POINT: Our God keeps His promises.

APPLICATION/DISCUSSION:

- ⇒ Remember that our true freedom comes in Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29).
- ⇒ He is the Lamb who provides us with total perfection and protection from God's judgment (1 John 2:2, 3:10).
- ⇒ He was the spotless, unblemished Lamb, chosen before the foundation of the world (1 Peter 1:19-20).
- ⇒ He was the ultimate Lamb crucified during Passover (Matthew 26:26-32).
- ⇒ This Lamb will apply His blood to our account if we place our faith in Him (2 Corinthians 5:21).