Series: Surrender to Freedom

April 15, 2018

Message Two:

**Surrender**

Exodus 11:1-13:16

Guests - Growth Track - Generosity

**Intro:** This is a very somber story - a very somber passage - this is one of the most crucial stories in all of Scripture.

OT - types and shadows - foreshadowings of what is to come …

What happens here is a precursor to the entire New Testament …

This shows the unity of the Bible - the story of Jesus is in Exodus chapters 11-13.

Last week, we saw that God sent Moses to Egypt to tell Pharaoh to let the people go -

* Slaves for 400 years …
* Moses birth and recap of his story …
* Pharaoh refused to let the people go, so God sent plagues on the land as warnings and attempts to be persuasive as to who He was and that He is the One who deserves worship.

In all of that:

* Who is God?
* He is a God who loves His people!
* He is a God who protects His people!
* He is a God who keeps His promises to His people!

**Our response is surrender.**

**> Without surrender, there will be death.**

Firstborn sons …

Keep in mind, this was not God’s first action.

Keep in mind - God is a God of truth, who keeps His promises.

Some people hear “God of truth!” And they just think, “mean, mad, angry, unwavering, unyielding, uncompromising, harsh” - and in their minds they perceive all of those words in a negative fashion -

Think about your friends -

* Do you want your friends to be truthful with you - or always lying to you …
* Do you want your friends to keep their word - when they say they will do good things for you, do you want to be able to believe that they are truthful and that they will do good things for you?

Keep in mind - this story is about much more than this story. This story is about world history.

* God created the world and wanted to bless everybody.
* Adam and Eve disobeyed - threw the Creation into chaos, and because God is good and truthful, He kept His word and they lost their place in the garden -
* But God still blessed them - gave them a son who led others in calling upon God.
* But most of mankind became so extremely sinful, except for Noah, that God sent a flood, but saved Noah and his family through that flood.
* Mankind became overwhelmingly wicked again -
* God called Abraham - “I am going to use you, and your descendants, to be a channel of my blessings to the entire world.”
* Now, those descendants are slaves - how is God going to keep His word?
* He is going to have to set them free from their slavery -

He sends Moses … Pharaoh refuses …

* Moses is going to stick his walking stick in the Nile River and all the water of Egypt is going to turn into blood -
* Moses is going to say, “How about now?”
* Pharaoh is going to say, “No!”
* Frogs … “Take them away!” - “When?” - “Tomorrow!” - I’ve never understood that -
* How about now?
* No.
* Dust is going to turn into gnats … this is the worst picnic you’ve ever been to!
* How about now?
* No!
* Flies - our house in Pittsboro …
* How about now?
* No!
* Livestock die
* Boils
* Hail destroys crops
* Locusts eats any remaining crops
* Land turns to darkness …
* Stil no
* This is when God will take the firstborn children of Egypt -

The way I’m reading it, God is giving great warnings, loving warnings, He is telling them every time what is going to happen before it happens - Pharaoh still refuses.

God hardened Pharoah’s hearts because Pharaoh hardened his own heart.

God is not only going to keep this promise of freedom and blessing to His people - with the goal that they will be a blessing to the whole world - He is going to do it in a way that shows a picture to the whole world of how everyone can be free from the tyranny and pain of wicked and sinful, destructive lifestyles.

If you just see that “God is going to kill all these firstborn” - and you don’t see that this is one small part of this whole big story, you miss the picture.

He is a loving, patient God, and the warning to us is that there will be spiritual death if we do not accept His offers of love, forgiveness and freedom.

Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death…

Spiritual death …

Ezekiel 33:11 - As surely as I live, says the Sovereign Lord, I take no pleasure in the death of wicked people. I only want them to turn from their wicked ways so they can live. Turn! Turn from your wickedness, O people of Israel! Why should you die?

Exodus 11:4-5 - Moses had announced to Pharaoh, “This is what the Lord says: At midnight tonight I will pass through the heart of Egypt. All the firstborn sons will die in every family in Egypt…

God gave Moses a plan to escape this judgment - He gave them a way to memorialize it and millions of Jewish people still celebrate this today - and it gives us a picture of how God planned to bless the entire world through Abraham’s descendants through the forgiveness of our sins and the gift of eternal life through the work of Jesus Christ.

Exodus 12:21-23 - Then Moses called all the elders of Israel together and said to them, “Go, pick out a lamb or young goat for each of your families, and slaughter the Passover animal. Drain the blood into a basin. Then take a bundle of hyssop branches and dip it into the blood. Brush the hyssop across the top and sides of the doorframes of your houses. And no one may go out through the door until morning. For the Lord will pass through the land to strike down the Egyptians. But when he sees the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe, the Lord will pass over your home. He will not permit his death angel to enter your house and strike you down.

There is a picture there of blood … cross …

> Without surrender there will be death -

The Pharaoh needed to surrender to God, realize he was not God, and let the people go.

The people of Israel needed to surrender to this plan.

**> Jesus surrendered to the point of death.**

John 1:36 - As Jesus walked by, John looked at him and declared, “Look! There is the Lamb of God!”

John 10:9 ESV - I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.

John 10:11 - I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep.

Philippians 2:6-8 - Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges ; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross.

What were the Israelites? Slaves in Egypt - Jesus came as a human - took the position of a slave - gave His life - was called the lamb of God.

The plan God gave Moses and the Israelites to be spared from the judgment of death, is the picture of Jesus, referred to as a sacrificial lamb, coming as a slave, giving His life, shedding His blood - so that we could be free from the slavery of sin.

Sin is slavery - you can’t get out of it - you are trapped by it - you must be delivered from it - you can’t escape it on your own - you can’t become a “good” person on your own.

You need this miraculous deliverance just as much as the Israelites did -

**> We must surrender to escape spiritual death.**

Romans 6:6-7 - We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin.

Romans 6:12-14 - Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life… Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God’s grace.

This happens because of what Jesus did - and what is happening in Exodus is a picture of what Jesus is going to do!

There are many more pictures in the Passover that we don’t have time to get into today -

They were to eat this lamb with a meal - they were to eat it quickly and be ready to travel, because the Lord was going to set them free.

We must life our lives being ready to travel - Jesus Christ could come back at any time, and we must be living ready for Him to come - ready to go!

Part of the meal was bread without yeast - yeast is bacteria - our lives are to be lived without the corruption of sin in our lives.

Bitter herbs - to remind them of the bitterness of their slavery.

Exodus 12:28-30 - So the people of Israel did just as the Lord had commanded through Moses and Aaron. And that night at midnight, the Lord struck down all the firstborn sons in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh, who sat on his throne, to the firstborn son of the prisoner in the dungeon. Even the firstborn of their livestock were killed. Pharaoh and all his officials and all the people of Egypt woke up during the night, and loud wailing was heard throughout the land of Egypt. There was not a single house where someone had not died.

This is sad. There is no rejoicing here.

It is sad when people reject the plan of God.

God has a plan to deliver everyone - to set everyone free.

Everyone is corrupted by sin, and Jesus has provided the way out through His blood - the way this story depicts the way Israel could be free by the blood of the Lamb.

Exodus 12:13 - But the blood on your doorposts will serve as a sign…

Romans 5:12 - When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam’s sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.

Romans 5:15 - …For the sin of this one man, Adam, brought death to many. But even greater is God’s wonderful grace and his gift of forgiveness to many through this other man, Jesus Christ.

Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 3:23 - For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.

Romans 7:24-25 - Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord…

**> Surrender leads to freedom.**

Exodus 12:31 - Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron during the night. “Get out!” he ordered. “Leave my people—and take the rest of the Israelites with you! Go and worship the Lord as you have requested.”

This is sometimes the hardest thing to do.

Just like the Pharoah, we don’t want to surrender. We want to control our lives.

He was thinking of everything he would have to give up …

Sometimes that what keeps us from receiving real freedom - and a future of freedom …

Song: “I surrender … I surrender …”

**Invitation** - if watching by video pray with us.

Connection Card - if watching on video - let me know via email.

**Blessing**