Series: Surrender to Freedom

May 13, 2018

Message Five:

**The Greatest Treasure**

Exodus 19-24

*Guests - Growth Track - Handout designed with you in mind - Info and notes especially for you - won’t call or visit -*

*Generosity - Motion Conference*

*Notes on Handout and in YouVersion App*

**Serve Together Kokomo Video**

**Intro:** What do you think of when you think of treasure?

Mother’s Day - Mom loves jewelry … the ring she got me -

* Pirate’s treasure? Blackbeard’s .. a chest of gold?
* The pot of gold at the end of the rainbow … with a leprechaun?
* Winning the lottery?
* Your children?
* A good retirement account?

**Big Idea: The treasure is not what we get - it is who we are!**

Exodus 19:1-6 - Exactly two months after the Israelites left Egypt, they arrived in the wilderness of Sinai. After breaking camp at Rephidim, they came to the wilderness of Sinai and set up camp there at the base of Mount Sinai.

 Then Moses climbed the mountain to appear before God. The Lord called to him from the mountain and said, “Give these instructions to the family of Jacob; announce it to the descendants of Israel: ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians. You know how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. Now if you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to me. And you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation.’ This is the message you must give to the people of Israel.”

**> God wants us to be His treasure!**

He treasures you!

What is your most valuable possession?

* House
* Car
* Children
* Friendship

Do you know what God’s most valuable possession is?

You! He paid the highest price for you!

1st Peter 1:18-19 - For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.

2nd Corinthians 4:7 - We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure.

1st Peter 2:9 - But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

I want you to know this today -

* God loves you!
* He paid a high price for you!
* He considers you His highest treasure and most valuable possession!

We may be frail, fragile, faulty creatures, but He loves us and gives us His light!

God wants you to be His treasure!

**> We have a part to play.**

Exodus 19:7-20 - So Moses returned from the mountain and called together the elders of the people and told them everything the Lord had commanded him. And all the people responded together, “We will do everything the Lord has commanded.” So Moses brought the people’s answer back to the Lord.

 Then the Lord said to Moses, “I will come to you in a thick cloud, Moses, so the people themselves can hear me when I speak with you. Then they will always trust you.”

 Moses told the Lord what the people had said…On the morning of the third day, thunder roared and lightning flashed, and a dense cloud came down on the mountain. There was a long, loud blast from a ram’s horn, and all the people trembled. Moses led them out from the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. All of Mount Sinai was covered with smoke because the Lord had descended on it in the form of fire. The smoke billowed into the sky like smoke from a brick kiln, and the whole mountain shook violently. As the blast of the ram’s horn grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God thundered his reply. The Lord came down on the top of Mount Sinai and called Moses to the top of the mountain. So Moses climbed the mountain.

Exodus 20:18-19 - When the people heard the thunder and the loud blast of the ram’s horn, and when they saw the flashes of lightning and the smoke billowing from the mountain, they stood at a distance, trembling with fear.

 And they said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen. But don’t let God speak directly to us, or we will die!”

Video clip from ***Moses*** …

God wanted to speak directly to them - they couldn’t take it. They couldn’t handle it.

Moses had to become the intermediary - but they had to hear what God said, even if it was through Moses - and they needed to listen and do.

The New Testament tells us that also - those of us who are followers of Christ - we must both listen and do!

James 1:22-25 - But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the word and don’t obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don’t forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

Since Jesus came … sent the Holy Spirit … we all have ears to hear …

Over and over again … He that has ears to hear …

We need to listen to the directing voice of the Holy Spirit in our lives -

If you are a follower of Christ - you have the Holy Spirit - you can hear Him!

How? The Word - know the Word - when you know the Word, and spend time in prayer, you will begin to know the leading voice of the Holy Spirit just as surely as Moses did. Don’t turn away as these people did - listen!

It’s wonderful to watch how some of you have grown over the years … You have gotten into the Word … faithful … you learn it … you want to do it ….

It saddens me when people come to know Christ, then just stop. There is so much more for you! Get into it! Be so thankful for your forgiveness that you take time to read the love letter God sent to you! This book is packed with so much powerful and loving information! It’s His word and will for our lives!

Moses gave them the Word -

Ten Commandments -

Exodus 20:1-17 - Then God gave the people all these instructions:

 “I am the Lord your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery.

 “You must not have any other god but me.

 “You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image… You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the Lord your God…

 “You must not misuse the name of the Lord your God. The Lord will not let you go unpunished if you misuse his name.

 “Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. You have six days each week for your ordinary work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the Lord your God...

 “Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

 “You must not murder.

 “You must not commit adultery.

 “You must not steal.

 “You must not testify falsely against your neighbor.

 “You must not covet your neighbor’s house. You must not covet your neighbor’s wife, male or female servant, ox or donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor.”

Jesus summary …

Matthew 22:36-40 - “Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?”

 Jesus replied, “‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

He’s not leaving any out - He’s just summarizing them all - If we love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, we will be obeying the first 4 of the 10 commandments - If we love our neighbor as we love ourself, we will find ourselves obeying the final 6 of the 10 commandments.

Love our neighbor as ourselves … wow …

He wants us to be His treasure - His prized possession - His special people! He wants to do special things for you!

But you have a part to play - listen & obey - Love Him & Love others.

Some say this simplifies it all - I’m not sure. It’s easier to remember - but is it any easier to do?

How do we do this?

Holy Spirit -

Galatians 5:22-23 - But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

We need to let the Holy Spirit control our lives …

1st Corinthians 13 - If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn’t love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God’s secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn’t love others, I would be nothing. If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn’t love others, I would have gained nothing.

 Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

 Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless. But love will last forever! Now our knowledge is partial and incomplete, and even the gift of prophecy reveals only part of the whole picture! But when the time of perfection comes, these partial things will become useless.

 When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things. Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.

 Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.

This comes in between the chapters about the gifts of the Spirit …

We need to let the Holy Spirit control our lives - if we do, our lives will be saturated in love for others.

After the forgiveness of our sins, the Holy Spirit is the greatest gift of God to us - They are not separate - they are simultaneous gifts - when you receive forgiveness - you receive the Holy Spirit - He is God -

When you receive forgiveness - you receive God living in you!

You can hear Him! You can know Him! You can obey Him! You can know His love! You can share His love with others!

God wants you to know this presence - He wants you to know that He is present with you!

Exodus 24 -

 Then the Lord instructed Moses: “Come up here to me, and bring along Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and seventy of Israel’s elders…

 Then Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel climbed up the mountain. There they saw the God of Israel. Under his feet there seemed to be a surface of brilliant blue lapis lazuli, as clear as the sky itself. And though these nobles of Israel gazed upon God, he did not destroy them. In fact, they ate a covenant meal, eating and drinking in his presence!

 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain. Stay there, and I will give you the tablets of stone on which I have inscribed the instructions and commands so you can teach the people.” So Moses and his assistant Joshua set out, and Moses climbed up the mountain of God.

 Moses told the elders, “Stay here and wait for us until we come back.

 Then Moses climbed up the mountain, and the cloud covered it. And the glory of the Lord settled down on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days. On the seventh day the Lord called to Moses from inside the cloud. To the Israelites at the foot of the mountain, the glory of the Lord appeared at the summit like a consuming fire. Then Moses disappeared into the cloud as he climbed higher up the mountain. He remained on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

Recommend the Divine Romance -

**> God wants to be with you.**

God called Moses and the elders to Him …

God came to us …

Immanuel … God with us …

Jesus going away - sent the Holy Spirit - all the way through the Bible we are told that God wants to be with us!

He wants you to know His presence - feel His presence - be assured of His presence in a real and practical way!

John 14:17 - He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn’t looking for him and doesn’t recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you.

How do we become aware of His presence?

Psalm 16:11 - You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever.

Psalm 22:3 - Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

Psalm 100:4 - Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name.

When we praise Him …

When I need to know His presence …

We need to stop … listen … soak it in …

We are too busy -

If you’re too busy to stop and praise - worship - let His music fill your heart and soul - then He begins to speak to you - then you are too busy!

This is a priority!

This is what God wants! This is what God wants to give you!

Don’t resist as the Israelites did … “Don’t speak to us!”

No - stop - worship - listen - know that He loves you - know that you are His treasure - know that He has given you Himself - the Holy Spirit lives in you - empowers you - fills you with the fruit …….

Enables you to love as Jesus loves …

This is what He wants - This is what He gives …

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

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

**Blessing**

Close - take time to cultivate His presence …