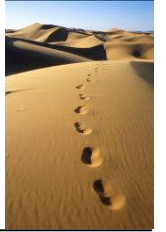


Freedom, Identity & Purpose: The Gospel of Christ in Exodus

Exodus 2: 1-10

Pastor Guy Gray ~ River West Church ~ September 24th



Sermon Notes

Main Points & Verses

Application

Key Themes & Additional Insights

The hidden hand of God

God's action in chapters 1 and 2 seems to be hidden. There is no question that miracles are taking place here. An oppressed people who are treated ruthlessly somehow continue to multiply exponentially. The decrees of genocide of the all powerful Pharaoh seem to have no impact. The baby Moses is left in the river to die and yet is actually rescued by the daughter of Pharaoh and then given back to his own mother for a season to be nursed! We know intuitively that these things cannot be random coincidence. It is the hidden hand of God almighty at work here – and we know it, though the direct action in the story is never attributed to God himself.

God's part and ours

God is the true hero of the story. Only God can defeat Pharaoh. Only God can actually part the Red Sea. Only God can work the miracle of redemption. And only God can defeat Satan, pay for sin, conquer death and raise Jesus from the dead! And yet... the individual choices and acts of faith of each of our lives do indeed figure in to the equation of God's work in our lives and our world. Someone at ground level is going to have to take a stand for what is right. Someone at ground level is going to have to put one foot in front of the other and take one single step in a new direction by faith. That is our part – and it does matter.

“Good guys” and “bad guys?”

Mysteriously, even Pharaoh's daughter figures into the story as someone who takes a risk and defies Pharaoh's orders to do what is right. This challenges a simplistic view of who the “good guys” and “bad guys” are. There were Egyptians who did what was right. Of course we know there were also Israelites who failed in their faith & obedience to God. (That part comes later.) Remember that in scripture God is the only one who is ultimately good and we are all the “bad guys” who need salvation. And salvation is the gift of God offered to all through Christ.

Jesus

Here is another great “foreshadowing” from Exodus that points to Jesus. Pharaoh chooses death by drowning as the way to exterminate the Israelite male children. But in the end, Pharaoh's chosen instrument of death for Moses and Israel becomes the very instrument of his own defeat and the saving work of God for His people (see Exodus 14 – the victory at the Red Sea). So it is with the cross of Christ. The cross appeared to be nothing more than the death and defeat of Jesus. But instead, through His death Jesus defeated Satan and paid the price for our sin. This was followed by the victory of the Resurrection in which Jesus became Lord of Lords and King of Kings.

Timing

God's salvation for Moses came in the most desperate situation and at the last possible moment – as he was about to be swept away in the waters of destruction. Lesson: don't give up. God raised Jesus from the dead when His disciples had lost all hope. Don't give up. The way of God is hidden – and often last minute. Don't give up. Take one simple step of faith forward. Take a stand for Christ and for what is right. That is your part. But God is the ultimate hero and this story belongs to Him. His part is the miracle – our part is to believe and to take a step forward. Jesus is risen & He is Lord. The victory is His. Will you follow?

Questions for Further Personal Reflection & Group Discussion

1. What insight, principle or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening or troubling? Explain.

2. Read Exodus 2:1-10 again.

How do you see God at work in this account? What is He up to and why?

The American Heritage Dictionary defines the word "Providence" as follows: *Foresight, Divine care and guardianship*. In what ways do you see the "Providence" of God in Exodus?

In all of Pharaoh's plans and scheming (1:15-22), what did he fail to realize? What can we learn from this?

3. A major lesson in the first few Chapters of Exodus is that of the mysterious and often "hidden" work of God in the lives of His people. The Israelites were able to look back on what, at the time, seemed like a hopeless situation and see God working behind the scenes.

Can you relate to this? As you look back on your life, are there situations where you now can see the "hand-prints" of God that at the time were painful, frustrating, confusing, etc.? Describe such a situation. What was God up to?

How does this exercise bolster your faith in the life situations you find yourself in today? Read Romans 8: 28-39 to explore this idea further.

4. Unlikely Heroes. What similarities do you observe between the midwives (Chap 1: 15-21), Moses' mother (2:1-3), Miriam, the sister of Moses (2:4, 7, & 8) and Pharaoh's daughter (2: 5-6, & 8-10)? What kind of words would you use to describe these women? How did their actions change the plight of the Hebrew people?

Memory Verse

Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Name names! Can you name someone who has been instrumental in changing the course of your life for good? Explain.

And what about faith in Christ? Can you name one person who has really impacted your faith in Jesus Christ-or helped you come to faith? Who? How?

Digging Deeper

What is the Lord been saying to you through this lesson? Do you have any new insights into the ways that God works in your life?

What step of faith might the Lord be asking you to make in your life right now?