

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

Exodus 1: 1-22

Pastor Guy Gray ~ River West Church ~ September 17th



Sermon Notes

Main Points & Verses

Application

Key Themes & Additional Insights

Transformation

The Book of Exodus is about a radical transformation. At the beginning of the story we find God's people as slaves in the service of Pharaoh. They are bitter, hurting and caught up in a cycle of grinding and meaningless work. But by the end of Exodus all this is changed. Free from oppression, we see them drawing near to God in the beauty of worship. Instead of wasting their lives in the service of pharaoh and his building projects, they are using their time, abilities and energy to serve the God who has saved them and called them to a higher purpose in life. This story of transformation is a picture of God's intention for each of our lives. Exodus shows the way.

Seeing the Need

Chapter one sets the stage for transformation by revealing the desperate circumstances of God's people. The gospel of Christ only makes sense against the backdrop of real need. But what is the need? What are the different dimensions of hurt, need, oppression and evil illustrated by the plight of the Israelites under the hand of Pharaoh? What is the need in our lives?

Work/Serve/Worship

One of the major themes in Exodus comes from one key Hebrew word: "avad". This word carries three different shades of meaning: "to work", "to serve", and "to worship." This word is used about 100 times in the book of Exodus! It is used in chapter 1 verses 13-14 a total of 5 times as either a noun or a verb. Pay attention to this theme in Exodus and in the Bible! In Genesis 1:26-28 we are taught that mankind was created in God's image and given a task to do in this world as we live under His kingship in our lives. But sin entered the world (Genesis 3) and radically effected God's intention. This means that one of the greatest questions of our lives is who we serve and why. Who or what do we worship and why? What do we work for and why? Each of these questions is related and impacts our lives. The transformation in Exodus is all about these questions and themes.

"Out of Egypt have I called my Son..."

Exodus establishes a pattern. What God does for Israel is a picture of the heart, mind and ways of God. The Exodus pattern and theme is going to be repeated in the Bible in many ways. But ultimately this pattern points us to Jesus Christ. For as we have learned, all of scripture is ultimately about Jesus! With this in mind, look at Exodus 4:22; Hosea 11:1 and Matthew 2:15. The Exodus pattern is repeated in the life of our savior. Not because He himself was in bondage, but because He entered into the brokenness and suffering of our fallen world. He experienced "Egypt" not only literally in His youth, but figuratively in His life. He fought a fight on our behalf that would lead us into a victory far greater than what Israel ever knew. Keep your thoughts on Jesus as you study Exodus. The Lord is calling you "out of Egypt" too! And Jesus is the one who will lead the way every step!

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. A major theme in the book of Exodus centers around being on a journey with God that leads to change and transformation in our lives.

How comfortable are you with change in your life?

Describe an event where you experienced major change? (Circumstances, change of heart, character, etc.) How could you see the Lord working in your life through that experience?

3. Read Exodus 1: 8-14 again.

Jot down any insights or key observations about this situation. What kind of language is used to describe the lot of the Israelite people?

Why do you think the Lord allowed the people of Israel to experience this? In what ways might this experience be preparing them for the "road" ahead?

Can you relate to what the Israelites are going through? Explain.

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.

4. Transformation and change are major themes in the New Testament as well and key elements in our journey with Jesus Christ. This week we are going to talk about the kinds of change that Christ wants to bring about in our lives. Some New Testament passages that might be worth exploring are Ephesians 2:1-10 and Romans 12:1-2.

5. Why do you think change is such a major part of our relationship with Jesus Christ?

6. What does it take to make people willing to change? Why do we so often have to hit rock bottom?

Digging Deeper

What has the Lord been saying to you through this lesson? Is there an area in your life where some change is required?

Why would Jesus want you to be transformed in this way?