

EXODUS

Free At Last

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sermon study summary

November 19 / 20, 2022

INTRODUCTION

The plagues that God brought upon Egypt accomplished His purpose. They demonstrated His power and glory not just to the Egyptians but to the whole world. The night of the tenth plague – the death of the firstborn – the Israelites left Egypt. Overnight Israel was a free nation. They walked out like a victorious army loaded with spoils from the enemy. God did not free the Israelites from the iron hand of Pharaoh to do whatever they pleased. Their freedom was a transfer of allegiance—from Pharaoh to God.

Having saved Israel's firstborn sons, God claimed ownership of them. Every firstborn male was 'consecrated' or 'set apart' to God and redeemed by the sacrifice of a lamb. The former slaves to Pharaoh owed their freedom to Yahweh; He was their new Master. They existed now solely to serve Him!

Unlike Pharaoh who ruthlessly exploited the people, God didn't demand submission because He wanted something from the people. He wanted His people to find true satisfaction by submitting to His Lordship. In the same way, when we place our faith in Christ, we are freed from slavery to sin to live exclusively for God. That's holiness—not a call to perfection but a call to be distinct. We once lived for ourselves, but now we live for Christ and Him alone! We serve a new Master.

The truth of our commitment is tested when God asks us to go outside our comfort zone. How we respond confirms whether we have truly surrendered to God or not. Surrender means being willing to lay down all of our rights, all of our preferences, and put every area of our life into the hands of Jesus whose bond slave we are. Surrender is not just for new believers or those who are struggling in sin. Those of us who have been Christians for years also need to constantly evaluate our hearts to see if we indeed are surrendered.

In Exodus, God instituted Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread to commemorate the Exodus and keep it alive in the minds of the generations to come. Yeast is symbolic of sin. Unleavened bread represents people who live differently because they have been set apart to live for God. The Feasts help the Israelites to remember their story! They are teaching moments for the whole family.

Rituals have power. Remembrance is important because we are forgetful. So, Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper. It helps us to remember the price that was paid for our freedom, that the bondage of sin is broken, and we have been set apart for God! When we partake of the Lord's Supper, we remember the price Jesus paid for our freedom and that Jesus, our Passover Lamb, is our substitute.

God put restrictions on who could participate in the Passover meal. Basically, anyone who had been redeemed. Any circumcised slave. No foreigner. In order to celebrate the Lord's Supper, you too must know that you have been redeemed. The Lord's Supper is a celebration for believers. Unbelievers must not participate.

The Apostle Paul wrote: **"So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup"** (1 Cor. 11:27-28).

Before we partake of the Lord's supper, we examine our hearts, confess our sins, and recommit to living for Jesus as we reflect on His sacrifice. We remind ourselves we are no longer slaves to sin; we are set apart for God!



EXODUS

sermon study guide

IN – PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. Is there a time you won a prize you always wanted? Share the details and how it made you feel?
2. What are some of your unique family holiday traditions?

UP – PURSUE GOD

Read Exodus 13:1-2, 11-13.

3. Why did the Lord ask the Israelites to consecrate to Him every firstborn male? How do you think they felt?

Read 1 Corinthians 6: 19-20.

4. Paul calls us to live holy lives, just like Moses called the Israelites to do. What does that look like? How is it contrary to modern society?

OUT – PURSUE MISSION

5. The Feast of Unleavened Bread helped the Israelites remember the night of the Exodus. What are some ways you can remember how God saved you? How can you share that with others?
6. According to 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, you were not set free to live as you want. How does it feel to hear that “you are not your own”? Do you feel honored or deprived of your freedom? Explain why.

For Personal Reflection / Prayer:

Spend time in prayer this week. Reflect on the good things that come with being set apart for God. What are the things that may be holding you back from living life fully for God? Ask God to give you clarity and resolve to surrender your life completely to Him.

THE WORD (NIV)

Exodus 13:1-2, 11-13 The Lord said to Moses, ² “Consecrate to me every firstborn male. The first offspring of every womb among the Israelites belongs to me, whether human or animal.”

¹¹ “After the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites and gives it to you, as he promised on oath to you and your ancestors, ¹² you are to give over to the Lord the first offspring of every womb. All the firstborn males of your livestock belong to the Lord. ¹³ Redeem with a lamb every firstborn donkey, but if you do not redeem it, break its neck. Redeem every firstborn among your sons.

1 Corinthians 6: 19-20 ¹⁹ Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

Exodus 12:43-45 ⁴³ The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “These are the regulations for the Passover meal: “No foreigner may eat it. ⁴⁴ Any slave you have bought may eat it after you have circumcised him, ⁴⁵ but a temporary resident or a hired worker may not eat it.

Exodus 13:3-10 ³ Then Moses said to the people, “Commemorate this day, the day you came out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery, because the Lord brought you out of it with a mighty hand. Eat nothing containing yeast. ⁴ Today, in the month of Aviv, you are leaving. ⁵ When the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Hivites and Jebusites—the land he swore to your ancestors to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey—you are to observe this ceremony in this month: ⁶ For seven days eat bread made without yeast and on the seventh day hold a festival to the Lord. ⁷ Eat unleavened bread during those seven days; nothing with yeast in it is to be seen among you, nor shall any yeast be seen anywhere within your borders. ⁸ On that day tell your son, ‘I do this because of what the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt.’ ⁹ This observance will be for you like a sign on your hand and a reminder on your forehead that this law of the Lord is to be on your lips. For the Lord brought you out of Egypt with his mighty hand. ¹⁰ You must keep this ordinance at the appointed time year after year.

This week’s writers: Elsa Henderson, David McMillin, Jemimah Ong, and Jorel Quemuel

