

God Chooses a People
Oct 25, 2009
Exodus 19:1-6 and 1Peter 2:9-12
Dr. Jeff H. McCrory Jr.

Synopsis:

Today begins our Annual Fund Drive. This has been a difficult financial year for many of us. I have felt it in my pay cut. But God has given us this gift to think strategically about the mission of Jesus Christ. I want to be as clear as possible about what the Holy Spirit is calling us to be and do, so that we can participate financially.

The Holy Spirit's clear call to us comes through God's word to Moses, re-preached in Peter's letter to the exiles:

God saves a people in Jesus Christ to obey so that we may be a kingdom of priests, a holy group for all peoples of the world, beginning right here in our community.

I.

S-A-V-E-D

Exod 19:4 I bore you on eagles wings and brought you to myself

Where is Moses?

- Last week at burning bush = God chose a man
- What happens next?
- 10 plagues and the Red Sea
- Then complaining
- Then come to the mountain

READ Exod 19:1-4

*They have been S-A-V-E-D = Exodus word = Song

Some folks jump up and down all night and D-A-N-C-E
While others go to church to wear their brand new H-A-T
And on their face they put great gobs of P-A-I-N-T
And then they'll have the nerve to say they're S-A-V-E-D

It's G-L-O-R-Y
To know I'm S-A-V-E-D
I'm H-A-P-P-Y
Because I'm F-R-double E
I once was a' B-O-U-N-D
With chains of S-I-N

But it's V-I-C-T-O-R-Y
To know I've Christ within

*OK God saved a people/us:

WHY?

WHY has God saved us in Jesus Christ?

-rescued us from sin, bondage, bad stuff

-Is it just to get us out of here? *I'll Fly Away*

II.

To Obey

Exod 19:5 Now if you obey my voice

Classic Text: Exodus 19:1-6 = answers the question

-uses the word *covenant* = *berith* in Hebrew

-Where else? Noah, Abraham, David, NT (New Covenant)

*Agreement: *Cut a Covenant*

-eat a meal (verb *brh*) e.g. *break bread*

-cut up an animal and walk through it! Gen 15

-cut your penis! Gen 17

*Serious business

READ Exod 19:5-6 = Tell story

-Exodus 1-18 story: Moses, Plagues, Red Sea, Wilderness

-Now they're S-A-V-E-D

*But conditions, not for salvation but to fulfill purpose

READ Exod 19:5a

Two commands: *Obey Voice* and *Keep Covenant*

Grace/Save first, then Obedience/Keeping second

-From Exodus 20-Deut comes Instruction in Obedience

-we will be judged for what we do with God's grace

-Costly grace calls for obedience Old and New Testament

Dietrich Bonhoeffer *The Cost of Discipleship*

"Only he/she who believes is obedient,
and only he/she who believes is obedient."

The way we believe is to obey a concrete command

*Where are you hearing a concrete command today?

*Maybe it is financial; Obey with your finances (Annual Fund)

We are S-A-V-E-D to O-B-E-Y

III.

To Be a Priestly Kingdom

Exod 19:6 You shall be for me a priestly kingdom

Why O-B-E-Y?

There's more to Exodus 19 and the logic of salvation

READ 19:5b-6

*Two words stick out:

Treasured Possession

Kingdom of Priests/Holy Nation

We are S-A-V-E-D to O-B-E-Y for a P-U-R-P-O-S-E

What do these words mean for us?

1. Treasured Possession = *segullah* = special property

Royal background

E.g. I have my special stuff (guitars) that allows me to do what I do best

KJV *peculiar treasure*

Some of us are more *peculiar* than others

POINT:

GOD MEANS TO USE PECULIAR TREASURES TO DO GOD'S
PURPOSE

2. Priestly Kingdom/Holy Nation =

mamleket cohanim/goy kadosh

priest/holy job is two-fold:

a. Represent people to God = pray

b. Represent God to people = teach

*notice that it is a kingdom/nation for other kingdoms/nations

POINT:

PRAY TO GOD FOR OTHERS
TEACH FROM GOD TO OTHERS

SUM:

OK, we're saved to obey in order to be used by God to pray for and to teach others.

But we're still not done

WHY?

IV.

For the Whole Earth

Exod 19:5 For the whole earth is mine

See hint in Exod 19:5 = whole earth is mine

See sermon in 1Peter

*God has a plan for whole earth (Creation-Choice-Abraham)

READ 1Peter 1-2 = Sermon Exod 19:1-6

-1Peter 1:1-2 = Chosen (*eklektos*) to be obedient (Exod 19)

-1Peter 1:3 = Chosen in Jesus to be like Jesus (death-res)

-1Peter 2:4 = Chosen (*eklektos*) = Jesus

-1Peter 2:9-10 = Chosen (*eklektos*) = us

*We have been elected for a PURPOSE: 3x *eklektos*

-Whole earth may meet God

-READ 1Peter 2:11-12 = how we behave

*We are preparing the world to meet Jesus when he returns to judge = set things right = restore the creation

How do we do this? What does it look like?

Examples at Geneva: Hold up *Geneva Blessings*

-next three weeks you will see examples/peculiar treasures

-Steve Frogue picking up garbage

-People going to prison, writing letters, doing Bible study

-Going across the street to do music

-Iglesia Park

-Hundreds of ways that Geneva = you can bless the creation

*Obey/behave financially to make this possible