

JUNE 29th  
**SINNERS THAT NEED TO BE SAVED**

*“For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.”*

**EXODUS 12:12-13**

Ahhhh...the comparison game. We all like to play the game, even if we don't want to admit it. Sadly, people that consider themselves religious play the game often. We can look down our noses at people and see all of their defects and start to think better about ourselves. It's not a new game that we discovered during our lifetimes. It's a game that's been going on since sin entered the world. That's what makes Exodus 12 so significant for the Hebrews and so impactful for us.

Did you notice what all the prior eleven plagues had in common? The plagues were exclusively against the Egyptians, but that's not what we find here in Exodus 12. The death of the firstborn is pronounced on every animal and person...that doesn't have the blood that covers the doorposts. This included the Hebrew people. What is God trying to say to them and to us with this blood requirement? God is showing His people that they are also guilty and deserve to die. This is a key point that they needed to remember. And it's something that we need to be reminded of also. God doesn't save because of anything that the Hebrews bring to the table to impress God. Even further, we don't either. All we do with our acts is bring more judgment on ourselves because we are sinners. It's only because of God's grace that any of us are saved. We need to be reminded on this truth to appreciate what God does in saving us. God doesn't just pass over the Hebrews here; He reminds them later about their sin and His grace. Moses reminds the Hebrews of their sin and God's favor in one of his sermons from Deuteronomy 9: “Know, therefore, that the Lord your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for you are a stubborn people. Remember and do not forget how you provoked the Lord your God to wrath in the wilderness. From the day you came out of the land of Egypt until you came to this place, you have been rebellious against the Lord. Even at Horeb you provoked the Lord to wrath, and the Lord was so angry with you that he was ready to destroy you.”

The tendency to condemn others and excuse ourselves doesn't get much better in the New Testament. Paul makes careful arguments in Romans 1-3 to show that all people are sinners before a holy God. Romans 2 states: “Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God?” Our sinful condition has always wanted to overlook our sin while condemning others.

Men, what does this mean for us? Our prideful comparison game causes us to miss the greatness of the gospel. If there's something that we do that impresses God, then He would somehow be obligated to save us. However, that's not grace. That would be getting what we deserve. Instead, all that we deserve is exactly what the Egyptians received, judgment on their sin. But God. God shows His love to us in this, that Christ died for us when we were still sinners! Oh what great news this gospel is! Our God saves! Have you lost your view of how special the good news is to save you?

**Spend some time praising God for saving you from your sin. Ask Him for help to remember how great this news is.**

**For Further Reading: Psalm 51**