

Sermon Outline

Sunday, May 10, 2020 – Read You as Y'all

Recap

- Last week we launched this month's series – Promise to the Plural
- We have a chance to be transformed - who God is calling us to be?
- The church has infused American culture of individualism into Christianity
- This series says hyper individualism is contrary to what God called us to and this moment is giving us an opportunity to course correct in our practice AND in our theology
- Each week we will explore one of the key points (Read You as Y'all; You Ain't All That (On Purpose), and It's Also About the Benjamins Baby. Final week = Solidarity weekend, Sabbath Sunday, Lay Reflections on What God is Speaking to Our Community)

Exegesis

- Again, we are reminded this week of the promise that Abraham gives – I will bring nations from your family (4.5 billion people trace heritage to Abraham)
- They go through a lot before this promise is fulfilled – Joseph brothers betray him, he rises up, Israel goes down, they are saved by coming to Egypt, then they get enslaved, they break free, but disobey God and have to wander in the wilderness, finally get to the land
- By the time Jeremiah comes along they messed up and are conquered by the Babylonians and carted off to Babylon as exiles. He says, don't worry God is going to help you, BUT you are going to be in captivity for 70 years (ignore prophets who say everything will be okay)
- Cycle = God steps in to help, the people mess up, they go down, God steps in again (over years)

Key Points –

1. The promise is to the whole and it will play out differently for each person
 - a. Collective liberation = balance of me & we (you may not get everything you want)
2. The promise started before you and it will continue after you
 - a. Reach back and reach forward
 - b. Shout out to mother's who embody this for many of us (Mom's weekly prayers)
3. Things got messed up again and again when folks kept trying to assure their personal or familial safety while overlooking the security of larger community
 - a. You must support those on the margins (widow and orphans)
 - b. God gave them concrete systems like outer row gleaning, but they didn't keep it up

Core Questions –

- How do you connect with the idea of collective liberation?
- Who are the ancestors who passed the torch to you? Who are the young people that you are passing it on to?
- We can all name how the government is dropping the ball on creating a strong safety net, but how are we integrating our lives with folks on the margins? How is New Roots doing or

not doing that in the way that God calls us? What is our modern-day outer row gleaning systems? How can we go even deeper?