

Sermon Outline - Sun, Jul 11, 2021- Don't Be Shook

Overview: This month we are continuing to look at the early church and their challenges as they move from the Jubilee spirit of Pentecost into a group of new and maturing congregations trying to live out their calling as part of the Jesus. Last week we meditated on the topic – Where the Spirit is, there is Freedom. This weeks sermon is titled – Don't Be Shook.

Story Exegesis –

- We are reading from 2 Corinthians 3 where Paul tries to convince the congregation at Corinth not to leave his leadership for some new leaders who are trying to move the congregation away from Paul's teachings
- We are reminded that the Corinthian church was in the big city seat of power – maybe that made them more inclined to flashy new things.
- Paul tells them that they are called to act with boldness and not be shook like the Israelites were at Mount Sinai. → Exodus – the fear, the haters → worshipping other Gods, talking about going back to Egypt, etc.

The Fears –

- **They were afraid of the mystery** – The fog, the length of time, the waiting. The people often started grumbling because they weren't sure of what was happening and that regularly caused them to lose faith.
- **They were afraid of the discipline** - God asked them to follow some rules that were not always easy. The work of being in right relationship was hard work that required them to make sacrifices not just at the temple but in their lives.
- **They were afraid of the shine** – “Fearsome Radiance” from being in God's presence. God was setting them apart, to be different from the nations around them. This was particularly hard because they were such a small group and they had to doubt

The Response

- **Walk by the Spirit (in discernment)** – Get used to walking in fog. Often God won't give you the path in a way that makes you confident and comfortable. Trust the process!!!
- **Lean into the hard work of holiness** –Manifesting God's call on your life and in the world will require growth and transformation. It is hard and necessary work.
- **Get your shine on** –Do not be afraid to stand out. Remember the status quo is not working and get excited about the vision that God is bringing to pass.

Questions –

1. What fears do you have around the unknown and trusting God? Where have you grown in your comfort level or what steps do you need to take to get better at walking by the Spirit?
2. What are some forms of holiness and discipline that are needed in your life and in the world, what can you do to cultivate more transformation in yourself and in your community?
3. Reflect on the concept of fearsome radiance. Where are you called to boldness? The New Roots community? How can you/we live out that calling?