

Sermon Outline - Sunday, June 14, 2020 – The Journey Before Jubilee – Let Your Pharaoh Go

Review from last week - Mar/Apr we looked at the Exodus story and how God frees the Israelites from Egypt. After nearly 430 years of captivity God brings 10 plagues to Egypt to force Pharaoh to finally let the people go. God takes them physically out of Egypt but before they can enter the new land, God has to get the Egypt out of them. Before we can talk about Jubilee we need to identify the ways of Egypt that we need to let go of. Our key points from last week were

- Change of spot ≠ Change of thought
- Years of obeying Pharaoh made it hard to trust and follow God
- You can't grow a new things from old roots (wine & wine skins)

Exegesis

- This week we begin by looking at the story of the Egyptians and the Golden Calf
- They get to Mount Sinai and God hovers like a cloud over the mountain. Only Moses (sometimes Aaron or a few elders) can go up to the mountain to talk to God
- Moses goes back and forth telling the folks what God is saying - Exodus 20 – the 10 Commandments including in 20:23 – nor should you make for yourselves gods of gold
- Moses is going back and forth for a few days at a time and hearing from God and then sharing with the people
- On the trip before our scripture, Moses has been gone for 40 days and nights – their conclusion is that he is gone and they have to figure it out on their own
- They go to Aaron to help them make a God since they are probably afraid to go up to the cloud God. Need God they can see and relate to.
- Moses thinks that they are in trouble and instead finds they are having a big party to their God
- He burns up the golden calf, spreads the gold on the water and makes them drink it

Key Points

1. They made their God in the image of Egyptian deities
 - a. Egyptians adorn their deities with gold as a symbol of power
2. The thing they value the most (their gold) are things they acquired from a system that oppressed them. They literally build their God from these things.
3. Why does Moses make them drink the gold? – He makes them ingest, digest and excrete it. The most powerful way to make them get rid of the stuff might be to poop it out. Literally make it into sh--- and have them leave it on the side of the road, in a ditch somewhere.

Core Questions

1. In what ways have we fashioned our image of God after the likeness of Pharaoh?
2. How are we shaping our own visions of success in accordance with the values of the systems that have oppressed us?
3. What are the things that we might specifically need to get out of our system so that we can make our way toward the Jubilee that God is calling us to?