

Sermon Outline - Sun, Jun 28, 2020  
The Journey Before Jubilee – My People Let Pharaoh Go

Intro & Summary

After 430 years of captivity God forces Pharaoh to finally let the people go. This year we remember the 400th Anniversary of the arrival of the first Africans to America – in chains. At the beginning of this year, we started a journey with our reading of Parable and then in the midst of this pandemic and uprising the call for New Roots to be something different has become even more clear. God takes the Israelites physically out of Egypt but before they can enter the new land, God must get the Egypt out of them. Before we can talk about Jubilee, we need to identify the ways of being that we need to leave behind

Overview Points –

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

The Golden Calf – Idolatry & Worship of False Gods + Need to reduce God to smaller size

1. They made God in the image of Egyptian deities – earthly like – Afraid of the mystery
2. They construct God from things they acquired from a system that oppressed them.
3. Moses makes them ingest and excrete it - get it out of system - show it is a load of crap

Manna in the Wilderness – Trusting God for Our Daily Bread

1. The Israelites were constantly expecting God to fail them in part because of the trauma
2. Learning to trust God for their daily bread. Hoarding it invited mess into their lives.
3. God establishes Sabbath. God gives extra so they can slow down and rest.

Exegesis

- We come to the moment when they are right outside of Canaan
- They send the 12 spies to survey the land and bring a report
- Everything in the land is huge and so are the people.
- 10 say – no way we can do this; 2 – we can do this w/ God
- Again, they say – we should have stayed in Egypt
- Because of their lack of faith God decides that a bunch of them need to die off because the older generation is not willing to shift
- This is the key moment that leads them to be held back from the promise
- The Israelites were defined by a Spirit of Lackness

Key Points

1. They were freaked out by the size of the resources and blessings (do we deserve this?)
2. Their vision for themselves were shape by their perceived stature in the eyes of their enemies. (Internalized oppression)
3. They looked at the size of the people they were up against and not God who had their back (they kept counting God else – What else could God do to show their strength?)

Many of us are skeptical of the moment we are in. We feel the urgency to shift, but we are afraid that we will get our hopes up to see the same outcomes. There are real reasons to be

afraid – but will we let it keep us from the possibility. Our children are leaning into the notion that change is possible. God will tear this system down, but does a whole generation have to die for that to happen. Can we break free from the Spirit of Lackness.

#### Questions

1. In what ways are your vision of what is possible truncated?
2. What do you need to get your eyes focused on God rather than the oppressive systems?
3. What do we need to do to help the older generation get in alignment with the vision of the younger generation?