

Sermon Outline

Sunday, May 3, 2020 – May Establishing the Conversation

- Intro - Original plan to talk about sexuality this month → Shifting in light of the moment
- Key issue with American Christianity – reading the Bible through individualistic lens. I am going to argue that this reading has messed up our understanding of what it means to be a follower of Christ

Exegesis

- Quick history - Adam and Eve → Cain & Abel → to Noah & the flood – God’s Redo – Noah’s son Shem is great(x7)-grandfather of Abram. God decides to make Abraham & Sarah – parents of the nations (Christians – 2.4b, Muslims – 1.8b and Jews – 15m all trace to them = 4.5b of the 7.6b in the world)
- Promise = birth to a people through them & establish a relationship between God and those people forever
- They don’t get it perfectly right (Hagar & Ishmael) but God still keeps the promise.
- The Bible highlights individuals but it’s about God’s ongoing relationship w/ a people
- The central tension – if we are all God’s people.... How do we live together?
- Whenever the Israelites get in trouble it is because they don’t live right with each other
- Personal piety won’t cut it if you don’t live right w/ each other! (Isaiah 58 – this is the fast I choose....)
- The early church was about radical living. People joined and shared their resources creating alternative communities.
- The Essenes were the most radical in their structure, but all the congregations were far more communal and collective than we were.
- No safety net

Key Points –

1. Read the You as y’all - God’s promise is not to me but to we. My ancestors believed God would answer their prayers by freeing their descendants.
2. You ain’t all that (on purpose) – no one has it all so that you will have to rely on others
3. It’s Also About the Benjamin’s Baby – We can’t fulfill God’s plan w/out sharing resources

In this moment we are (or we should be) discovering how we are in it together. Even with the distancing people are standing with each other (mutual aid, etc.) but when we go back to being more physically present will we still stand together as strong. Interdependence is a central part of God’s calling for us!

Core Questions –

- What do you find comforting or scary about the idea of us all being in it together?
- Who is in your y’all? Are you moving collectively to discern and act on God’s plan?
- What would need to shift at New Roots and in the world for us to live into God’s plan for communities of collective practice and impact?