

Escaping Egypt

March 25, 2018

I Keep the Fires Burning

A) **SLIDE 2 Timothy 1:6 (NIV)** ⁶ For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

- 1) It is time to fan our gifts into flames because the times grow more challenging each day
- 2) Brother Jim said we are Agents of Reconciliation
- 3) *Saw I Can Only Imagine*
- 4) Amazing movie, but it is not about a song or about heaven
- 5) It is about Jesus Christ, and everything Bro Jim talked about
- 6) Now is the time for the fire in us to burn brighter and brighter

B) **SLIDE** Easter, Passover, and Baptism

- 1) We will take a look at the relationship between these three
- 2) Rabbis state that "in every generation, each person must see himself as if he came out of Egypt."
- 3) Israel's release from Egypt is not just an historical story
- 4) It is our story, my story, your story; it is truth
- 5) It is why we celebrate Passover

II **SLIDE** Egypt and the Exodus

A) Parallels to our lives

- 1) The Jews were in bondage to Egypt; we were/are in bondage to sin.

a) **John 8:33-36 (NIV)** ³³ They [Jewish leaders] answered him [Jesus], "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?" ³⁴ Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ³⁵ Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

- b) People are still asking the same thing: how can you say we need to be set free?
- 2) **SLIDE** The Jews existed under an abusive ruler who enslaved them; people are under Satan who enslaves them
 - a) **2 Corinthians 4:4 (NIV)** The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
 - 3) **SLIDE** Those Jews were totally powerless to deliver themselves from their slavery; people were totally powerless to deliver themselves from slavery under sin.
 - a) **Romans 5:6 (NIV)** You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.
 - 4) **SLIDE** For the Jews, God provided a deliverer (Moses); for people in sin, God provided Jesus.
 - a) **John 3:16-17 (NIV)** [Jesus said,] ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.
 - 5) **SLIDE** To the Jews, God provided a Passover lamb, whose blood caused death to pass over them; for us, God provided Jesus as our Passover Lamb that death might pass over us
 - a) **1 Corinthians 5:7 (NIV)** Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch--as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.
 - b) **Ephesians 1:7 (NIV)** In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace
- B) **SLIDE** Closer look
- 1) Egypt -
 - a) They did not have a choice because they were slaves
 - b) They were not free to worship God

- c) When we were in the world, we did not have a choice because we were slaves to sin
- d) People may say they do not want to worship God, but, in reality, they do not have the freedom to worship Him

2) **SLIDE** Plagues

- a) Each plague was a defeat of an Egyptian idol
- b) Our God is one God and we are not to have any other god before us
- c) Even when we were slaves to sin, God was working to destroy the false idols in our lives
- d) For the first 9 plagues, Israelites did not have to do anything
- e) God did not require a response from the Jews.
- f) God's grace and mercy and restoration were evident.
- g) **SLIDE** Even before we accepted Jesus, even when we were still slaves to sin, God extended His grace to us.
- h) He was always present, acting on our behalf to set us free.
- i) Can you remember times when you know God was moving in your life even when you were ignoring Jesus?

3) **SLIDE** Time to Decide

- a) However, the tenth plague REQUIRED the Israelites to have FAITH.
- b) This is important. They had to ACT on that FAITH.
- c) They had to make a decision because Judgement was coming.
- d) **SLIDE Exodus 12:6-7,12-13 (NIV)** ⁶ Take care of them [the lambs] until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. ⁷ Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. ¹² "On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. ¹³ The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass

over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

- e) **SLIDE** Key words: FAITH, DECIDE, SUBMIT, ACT
 - f) Our salvation requires us to make a decision
 - g) We must not mistake God's grace as a sign that He will not act, that He really will not do anything.
 - h) Salvation has been offered to all who would be saved by grace through faith.
 - i) Each family had to obey the laws of Passover. Each person had to be covered by the blood of the lamb.
 - j) By faith they had to remain covered by that blood.
 - k) They had to remain "in the blood."
 - l) They could not apply the blood and then leave to do their own thing
 - m) **SLIDE** Each one of us faces the same decision
 - n) **Ephesians 2:8 (NIV)** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--
 - o) However, also like the Israelites, we HAVE to make a decision
 - p) **Romans 10:9-10 (NIV)** ⁹ If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.
- 4) **SLIDE** One more: Baptism
- a) Even after death passed over them and they were free, the Israelites were still in Pharaoh's territory.
 - b) It was not until they passed through the Red Sea that they were free of Pharaoh.
 - c) They were no longer slaves.
 - d) When they crossed over they were free to praise the God of Creation.

- e) **Exodus 8:1 (NIV)** Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and say to him, 'This is what the LORD says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me
- f) **SLIDE** Their passing through the waters of the Red Sea was their baptism
- g) **1 Corinthians 10:1-4 (NIV)** ¹ For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. ² They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. ³ They all ate the same spiritual food ⁴ and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.
- h) **SLIDE** Jesus commands us to be baptized, to cross from captivity to freedom
- i) **Mark 16:15-16 (NIV)** ¹⁵ He [Jesus] said to them, "**Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.** ¹⁶ **Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.**
- j) **Romans 6:3-4 (NIV)** ³ Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

III **SLIDE** Never Forget

A) Egypt is our story

- 1) We must never forget that the story of that first Passover is the story of our salvation
- 2) God instituted a pattern that cannot and will not ever be broken or modified
- 3) This is the truth that we must never forget as we go into the world

- 4) This is the truth that we must never forget as we enter these end times
- 5) This is the truth that we must never forget even when we watch movies or hide eggs
- 6) This is the truth that we are to take into this world
- 7) **SLIDE** That is why we need to feed the flame of the Spirit that is in us
- 8) Jesus is our Passover Lamb
- 9) We must choose all of Him
- 10) We must choose to be saved by His blood through an act of faith
- 11) We are to be baptized as a participation in His life, death, and resurrection
- 12) This is the only message that truly matters.