

# **DELIVERANCE**

Exodus 12:33-42 Pastor Bland Mason 4.16.2017

**BIG Idea: Jesus delivers us from death to life.**

## **INTRODUCTION**

- Today I want to talk about the deliverance we find through Jesus because he rose from the grave. What comes to mind when you hear the word deliverance? Almost surely you came up with a story of deliverance. We as human beings love stories of deliverance. We love historical accounts of deliverance like the Civil Rights movement and individual stories like those who were injured in the Boston bombings but then went on to run in the marathon, maybe even the one tomorrow. We love deliverance.
  - It is even in our movies. Whether the greatest action movie of all time Die Hard or even love stories like the Proposal. Deliverance is in ALL of our great stories.
  - Deliverance is defined as “the action of being rescued or set free.” And we are hardwired for it. When we see someone needing deliverance something in us rises up. Think of how we all responded to the gentleman pulled off the United Airlines flight the other day. We have all felt taken advantage of by airlines. We want deliverance from feeling like we are being herded like cattle in giant metal tubes.
  - The idea of deliverance is central in the series we have been in through the book of Exodus over the last couple of months. Exodus opens with the Israelites suffering in slavery in Egypt. God raised up Moses to be the deliverer and over the last few weeks we saw how God brought signs and wonders in Egypt to display his power and finally lead to the 10<sup>th</sup> Plague which was the final straw for Pharaoh. He decided to let them go. This week’s text is actual exodus happening.
  - READ passage – Exodus 12:33-38  
*The Egyptians were urgent with the people to send them out of the land in haste. For they said, “We shall all be dead.” So the people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneading bowls being bound up in their cloaks on their shoulders. The people of Israel had also done as Moses told them, for they had asked the Egyptians for silver and gold jewelry and for clothing. And the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. Thus they plundered the Egyptians. And the people of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children. A mixed multitude also went up with them, and very much livestock, both flocks and herds. (ESV)*
  - A truly epic story for the ages but this story is not the ultimate story of deliverance in the bible. It is meant to be a picture for us of the story of deliverance that would come where the whole world would be offered the hope of deliverance. The greatest story of deliverance in the bible and human history is the gospel of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection to deliver us from death to life.
  - BIG IDEA: Jesus came to deliver us from death to life. If you are new to church or just checking out Christianity, this is the central message about Jesus. This is what Easter is all about. Today we are going to explore what it means that Jesus delivers us from death to life.
  - ANNOUNCE (PAGE 1002) Hebrews 2:14-15 - *Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.*
  - 3 ways Jesus delivered us from death to life. First, he delivers us...
- ### **1. From slavery to freedom**
- The Israelites were in slavery and oppression in Egypt under an evil tyrant Pharaoh. They were powerless to free themselves until God delivered them.

- The author of Hebrews in 2:15 mentions a “lifelong slavery” that we experience. This doesn’t mean we are outwardly enslaved like the Israelites but that we are inwardly slaves to sin. Jesus said in John 8:34 *Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. (ESV)*
- I know you may be thinking, “not me.” But we are. Sin is anything we do in our thoughts, words, or actions that is contrary to God. Sin belittles God’s rule and reign in the universe. It is rebellion. It is treason of the highest order. And we are all enslaved to sin.
- The 10 commandments can be considered, Morality 101. Basic morality. Let’s see how we do.
  1. Have you loved anything MORE than God?
  2. Have you given too much attention or affection to any created thing?
  3. Said or done anything that brings shame to God’s name?
  4. Taken a day of rest from school and work to focus on God each week?
  5. Honored your father and mother perfectly, 100% of the time?
  6. Murdered anyone? Hopefully not but what about hateful thoughts? Jesus said it’s the same thing.
  7. Had any lustful thoughts or actions?
  8. Stolen anything, ever?
  9. Lied about anything, ever? Including anything I have already asked about?
  10. Envied someone else for their looks or their boyfriend or their grades or their job or anything else?
- Not only do we all fail, we are consistent in doing it. We are enslaved. And if you don’t think you are enslaved to sin, then just try for one 24 hour period to NOT sin. Let’s just say you manage to do that and your super-pumped, and now you are full of pride and that’s the worst sin!
- The the cross and resurrection Jesus delivers us from the power of sin over us. How? He paid the full price for our sin, so sin loses its power to have dominion over us and to condemn us.
- John 8:36 *So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.* Jesus steps into and delivers us from slavery to sin and gives us freedom not with a new set of rules or a laundry list of ways to pay him back but with himself. Freedom is found in Jesus.
- How many of us today need freedom from... our addictions, our constant need to be right, or to be in control, our tendency to hurt others, or act selfishly, or to get angry. The hope of Jesus rising from the grave is not that you will some how find the power to manage your sin but that you will be delivered from being a slave to it.
- Some of you need to stop trying to manage your slavery and start trusting in deliverance. The resurrected King is offering to deliver you from slavery to freedom. Secondly, he delivers us...

## **2. From guilt to grace**

- When the Israelites left Egypt, they left all they had ever known. They left the false gods of Egypt with all of their demands and rituals and walked in God’s grace to them. How do we know it was grace? Simple question: What did the Israelites contribute to help get themselves out of Egypt? How did they help God? How did they pay God back? Simple answer... they didn’t.
- If you read the whole story it is quite clear that not only is it all about God saving the Israelites, it is also clear on many occasions that he did it despite their own stupidity!
- This idea of grace is the opposite of religion. Religion operates in sphere of guilt... it is about breaking the rules. Grace operates in the sphere of mercy... based on God’s love.
- This was a hard idea for me to receive. For so many years I thought of God as this moderately disappointed Father in heaven. Maybe you have felt this way. Maybe you are not even sure if there is a God up in heaven but if he is up there, you are sure he must be pretty disappointed in you. He must not like you very much.

- But that is not Jesus. The cross and the resurrection point to grace and grace is unmerited favor, more like what a loving parent gives their child.
- ILL – our kids were messy. I remember one of them when they were only a few months old. Been in her car seat and we smelled a dirty diaper. She was not one to sit still... ever so by the time we got her out of her car seat and start peeling away clothes we discovered that she had managed to get it all the way up her back and somehow in her neck hole. We didn't love it but not once did I think about saying, "Ok, that's it. You do this all the time. I'm finished until you get yourself cleaned up." WHY? Because I love her. And no amount of dirty diapers were going to change how I felt.
- Through Jesus' death Friday and resurrection on Easter Sunday, God has settled once and for all how he feels about you. He's not a disappointed dad. He's not wishing you were more like someone else you know. Your life is an open book before him and he sees all of your mess but he's a gracious Father ready to deliver you from your mess, from your guilt and from your shame.
- The cross and the resurrection happened before you ever thought about God. He loves you with all your mess and he loves you enough to do something about your mess.
- Stop worrying that God is in love with some future version of you... as if we could get ourselves together enough to be presentable to God. That's self-deliverance.
- You see, everyone has their deliverance strategies: IMPORTANT - Religion says, earn your deliverance. Secularism says deliver yourself. Jesus said, I have delivered you.
- Ephesians 2:8 "*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God...*"
- Grace changes everything. Grace means you don't have to walk in guilt but can come to your Father when you blow it. Grace means you don't have to try to earn his love because you already have it. Grace frees you to be who God made you to be TODAY and know that he delights in you as a loving Father.
- The through the cross and resurrection deliverance has been achieved, now all it needs is to be believed. And that brings us to the final way Jesus's cross and resurrection delivers us from death to life. He delivers us...

### **3. From fear to faith**

- The author Hebrews in 2:15 tells us – Jesus *delivers all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.*
- Fear of death is sort of the ultimate fear, though I think on some lists it comes in second behind fear of speaking in public. But fear of death is the ultimate human fear, right? But other fears control us too. We live in fear of losing control, fear of not being good enough, fear of not reaching our dreams, fear of being alone, and more. Across this room there are probably more fears shaping us than there are people in this room.
- When Jesus died he paid the price for our sin, which is death, but then he rose and he broke death. Death died on Easter. John Owen the great Puritan wrote a book on this he titled, *The Death of Death in the Death of Christ* trying to capture this idea.
- Fear of death no longer has to control us. Fear no longer is our mode of operating. Why? Because Jesus killed death. He went through it and came out on the other side because death could not hold him. And the bible describes his resurrection as the first fruits of all of God's children.
- That means Easter morning, a quiet revolution began, one that will one day completely overthrow the power of death. The empty grave meant that death's grip had been loosened on humanity.
- Now, as the risen King, Jesus invites you and I to walk by faith in him, not driven by fear. Think about that... if you had absolutely none of the fears you have right now, how would that change your life?

- Faith is confidence in God that leads to action. You got here today because you had faith. CoaH has never worshiped in this building before. You heard us make announcements or you saw the new address on our website and you had faith that when you showed up here, City on a Hill was holding a service. Faith is never mere mental ascent to an idea but a bold confidence that you act on.
- Faith is our mode of operation for our journey with God in this life and God loves for us to look to him in faith. This is what God was doing with the Israelites in leaving Egypt. He was trying to get them to look to him, to trust him, to WALK by faith IN him. And they were about to. As they left Egypt they were free, but they had not entered the promised land yet. They constantly failed, constantly fell and were constantly struggling but through it all, God said look to Me, trust Me, believe Me, walk with me!
- ILL - When I think about Jesus delivering me from fear to faith I think about an incident that happened back in 2009. If you have been around CoaH for a while you know the story but I went to bed on a Tuesday night feeling a little tired but with no major health issues. About an hour after I fell asleep I had a sudden cardiac arrest, which is an electrical episode where the heart goes into an unsustainable rhythm and then stops. Mine was stopped for 8 minutes while my wife gave me CPR. There is roughly a 5% survival rate for sudden cardiac victims. A police officer came in and hit my heart with a defibrillator. I was in a medical coma for 2 ½ days and then woke up. The doctors said, “Healthy people do not have sudden cardiac arrests. There is something seriously wrong with your heart.” At that moment and through my whole time in the hospital, I cannot describe to you the peace I had. It was not a peace that everything was good but that God had me. I had absolutely no fear of death. It wasn’t because I had this awesome faith but because the object of my faith was Jesus and he’s the resurrection and the life. The only thing I have to show for the whole incidence is a defibrillator in my chest, which I’m thankful for... not because it somehow might save my life but because it reminds me that I’m going to die one day but I don’t have to fear death. And if I don’t have to fear death then I don’t need to fear anything in this life.
- You see Faith in Jesus is not letting go and jumping blindly into darkness. It isn’t a road into nowhere. Why? Because at the beginning of the road is an empty tomb, Jesus is alive. You aren’t looking at the rest of your journey as blind faith because at the beginning of your journey is an empty tomb. You are NOT going down a road taking a gamble that God will come through because at the beginning of the road is an empty tomb. It is NOT a gamble that you will be good enough or make all the right decisions because there is an empty tomb at the beginning. It is NOT a gamble that when your life is over you might see God because there is an empty tomb at the beginning.

**CONCLUSION** – as I prepare to close would EACH OF YOU FIND YOUR CONNECTION CARD?

1. Is there an empty tomb at the beginning of your story? Have you experienced this deliverance from life to death? I realize if you are new that this can seem a bit overwhelming to think about but if you feel like all of this is starting to make sense for the first time, we want to help you take the step of faith today. PRAY.... & MARK YOUR CARD
2. If you have never explored this idea that Jesus delivers us from life to death through his cross and resurrection, I would like to just ask, “Is it worth exploring if it may actually be true?” If you doubt then bring your doubts! If you are skeptical then bring your skepticism but I invite you to explore Christianity. MARK YOUR CARD
3. The rest of you – maybe you have faith in Jesus but you need help experiencing this deliverance or maybe you just feel overwhelmed with circumstances in your life. ASK FOR PRAYER

COMMUNION

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