

Word Notes Sunday 04/10/15
Moses: Deliverance – The Story 04

Summary (read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday, listen to the podcast if you missed the talk <http://www.newmarketcommunitychurch.co.uk/podcasts.htm>.)

Key Text: John 1:29 & 1 Cor 5:7 (Background: The Story chapter 4 or Exodus 1-7 & 10-17)

It's now 400 years after Joseph. He had been forgotten and the growing Hebrew population – now about a million – was worrying Pharaoh. In order to restrict their growth he ordered the death of all infant Hebrew boys. Does that sound fair – was God taken by surprise at this? No he told Abraham it would happen (Genesis 15:12-14 – when God made His covenant).

This calamity in the Lower Story is a great opportunity for God in the Upper Story to step in, show up. He is going to do this through an individual - Moses. Reluctant, unqualified, murderer, stutterer – please send someone else. Just the kind of person God is looking for! Go to Pharaoh and TELL him “Let my people go!”

1, God reveals His **NAME**. In his Burning Bush experience Moses timidly asks: “Who shall I say sent me?” God says “I AM WHO I AM!, Tell them “I AM has sent me”” (Ex 3:14). In Hebrew this is: ‘ehyeh ser ‘ehyeh, or what will be recorded as “YHWH” (Jehovah), the self existent, always was and will be, ever faithful and dependable.

2, God reveals His **POWER**. God is the One True God, to reveal His power He sends ten plagues. In those days there was no atheism, people believed in The God or other gods. “Who is the most powerful” was the way they decided hence the plagues to demonstrate God’s Power is greatest. Even so Pharaoh’s heart hardens and he will not relent.

3, God reveals His **PLAN**. The tenth plague, the death of all firstborn males is a display of God’s mighty power but also of his plan for salvation through the blood of a lamb.

Just as he did through Moses 3,500 years ago God is looking sin square in the face and saying on your behalf “Let My People Go” To be released we need the blood not on a doorpost but over or innermost being - our soul. If the destroyer were to visit today then without that blood applied to your life you will die in your sins and not be delivered. Where do you get this blood?

Jn 1:29 “The next day John (the Baptist) saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!””

1 Cor 5:7 “For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.”

In this part of The Story God is giving us one of the biggest clues so far of his master plan to get us back and to remove the sin nature. God is making it clear way back in Exodus and then revealed fully in the Gospels: Jesus is the lamb, without defect, without sin and it’s his blood that needs to be applied to the doorpost of our soul so that we too might be delivered from the sin nature that we have all inherited.

We can earn it, can’t buy it, it’s a gift that we have to accept. We must acknowledge to God that we were captured by sin and ask God to apply the blood of Jesus to the doorpost of our soul so that death would pass us by.

Application (this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points)

Did you respond to the call to apply the Blood of Jesus to your life? Share with others even if this was more of a re-dedication or deeper commitment.

1. How did Moses’ life experiences prepare him for God’s call? What life experience could God use to minister to others through you?

2. When Moses asked for God’s “official” name, God replied: I AM WHO I AM. Why do you think God identified Himself that way? What is the significance of that name? What does this name for God tell us about Him?

3. When Moses tells Pharaoh to set the Israelites free, he responds by increasing their workload. Recall a time when you were obedient to God, but the situation worsened instead of improved. What life lessons can be drawn from these examples?
4. The Feast of Passover (p. 51-52) was to be perpetual reminder of how God delivered Israel. What are the parallels between Communion today and the Passover?

Witness (this is the bit where the cell talks, plans and prays about how to share the Good News)

How would you tell an interested person about Jesus' work on the cross? How would you demystify references to "the Blood", the need for salvation and God's plan?