

EXODUS: RESCUED BY GOD – Exodus 12

Prepare Time: Duet. 6:4-9 - 4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. **How do you remember? What do you do so you don't forget God?**

What do we do in order remember things that are important if life? With meetings, date-nights, anniversaries, and birthdays we usually write them down in a calendar or plug them into our smart-phones. When we want to remember or encapsulate a special day we may take a picture for a keepsake. When we want to remember a vacation, often we may buy a souvenir, so we can recall events from that enjoyable time. As you can see we will remember things for a variety of reasons, most of which we deem as important. One thing we will also see is that God wants us to remember things that He deems as important. All throughout the Bible, God is asking us to remember. What does He want us remember? **God want us to remember and obey what He says.**

I. Remember the sacrifice of our substitute, Jesus (vs.1-14)

¹ The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, ² “This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. ³ Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. ⁴ If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. ⁵ The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. ⁶ Take care of them 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. ⁸ That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. ⁹ Do not eat the meat raw or boiled in water, but roast it over a fire—with the head, legs and internal organs.¹⁰ Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. ¹¹ This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD's Passover.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. ¹⁴ “This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD—a lasting ordinance.

The Lord here in the beginning of this chapter begins to provide specifics on how the Israelites are to commemorate and celebrate the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. First, we will look at the Passover.

A.) The Lord tells Moses and Aaron, that the month that they are in is to be the first month of your year. Think about, what has happened? As we saw from last week, God made distinction between the Egyptians and the Israelites with the death of all the firstborn sons of Egypt. While the Egyptians were experiencing death, the Israelites experience grace and have life. This is where life truly begins for us, when we experience the grace of God that leads to life. When we realize that we have escaped death it changes things. This needs to be kept at the forefront of our lives because our eternal destiny has charted a new course. When we experience the freedom of Jesus it will be a new beginning, a day to remember. The Israelites calendar year was to begin by remembering the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The whole calendar changed after the Exodus from Egypt. **Has the sacrifice of Jesus totally altered the way that you do life? What has changed?**

B.) This was also to be a corporate commemoration and celebration of the Israel's redemption to God. Understand that God wants us to remember and celebrate together what God has done. What are we celebrating? New life in Christ, as a result of the sacrifice of Christ. **What does this look like for us? Church attendance it should be regularly, observing the Lord's Supper it should be regularly, Leading your family it should be regularly, and our time with God should be regularly**

C.) All of these things centered on the sacrifice of the lamb, but not just any lamb. The lamb must be a year old male (serving as the substitute for the Israelite males) without defect (perfect, spotless). ***1 Peter 1:18-19 - ¹⁸ For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors,¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.*** After sacrificing the lamb, they were to spread blood over the sides and tops of the doorways (symbolic of security, representation of the household). The Lord specifies that the lamb must be totally roasted, eating with great haste (Urgency), and leaving no leftovers (The work of Christ is finished work, there is nothing leftover to be done). On the same night that the people of Israel were observing the Passover meal, the judgment of God would visit Egypt. As judgment of God came, He takes notice of the blood on the doorframes and refrains from carrying out His wrath towards these specific households.

II. Remember the seriousness of sin (vs. 15-20)

¹⁵ For seven days you are to eat bread made without yeast. On the first day remove the yeast from your houses, for whoever eats anything with yeast in it from the first day through the seventh must be cut off from Israel. ¹⁶ On the first day hold a sacred assembly, and another one on the seventh day. Do not work at all on these days, except to prepare food for everyone to eat; that is all you may do. ¹⁷ “Celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread, because it was on this very day that I brought your divisions out of Egypt. Celebrate this day as a lasting ordinance for the generations to come.¹⁸ In the first month you are to eat bread made without yeast, from the evening of the fourteenth day until the evening of the twenty-first day. ¹⁹ For seven days no yeast is to be found in your houses. And anyone, whether foreigner or native-born, who eats anything with yeast in it must be cut off from the community of Israel. ²⁰ Eat nothing made with yeast. Wherever you live, you must eat unleavened bread.”

In reading the instructions for the Passover, it was to serve as a reminder of our need for salvation by a perfect sacrifice (Jesus). The Feast of the Unleavened Bread was to serve as a reminder what life should look like after salvation. After salvation, a life of holiness and freedom from sin should begin to prevail. Eating the unleavened bread would remind the Israelites of the haste in which they had to leave Egypt, because judgment came so swiftly there was no time to prepare the bread with yeast.

Notice that God had some pretty stern and strict things to say about yeast, when it comes to the Feast of Unleavened Bread. What's the big deal about yeast? As previously stated, the unleavened bread reminded the Israelites of their quick departure from Egypt, but yeast is also symbolic of sin of which we can be reminded in the New Testament *1 Corinthians 5:6-8* - *6 Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough? 7 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. 8 Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.* What do we know about yeast? As a small amount of yeast works through the dough as it is cooked it will cause the dough to grow. Sin desires to do the same thing. Sin wants to work through our lives and grow in our lives bringing us to a place of great arrogance. We have seen sin's effect in the life of Pharaoh. God knew the effects of sin and wanted to give the people of Israel a visible illustration of sin's destructive ways. God wanted them to leave the yeast (symbolic of sin) in Egypt (symbolic of the bondage of sin). Notice God's strong words of warning that He has concerning yeast. God tells the Israelites (3) times to eat bread without yeast, (2) times God tells Israel that yeast does not even need to be in the home. On top of that, God says (2) times anyone who violates this will be cut off from the community of Israel. God not only wants Israel to leave Egypt quickly, but wanted Egypt out of the Israelites lives. Unleavened bread served as an example of purity or holiness which is what God desires. If we have experienced the Passover Lamb (Jesus) we will not tolerate sin in our lives. God has a zero tolerance policy for sin. **Do we have zero tolerance of sin in our lives? Do we justify sin in our lives? Are we deceived into thinking that some sin is small and not big deal? (We do this with lying, lust or envy, worry/anxious, laziness) Is not enough to simply identify sin our lives, it needs to be removed. Sin is like an iceberg, we only see what is on the surface and don't realize the monster that is lurking underneath. Why do we justify sin? Because we don't rightly divide God's word. God wants us to be as the unleavened bread, sincere (genuine) and truth.** *2 Timothy 1:9, "9 He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time,"*

III. Remember to be obedient by applying what God has instructed (vs. 21-51)

21 Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. 22 Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. None of you shall go out of the door of your house until morning. 23 When the LORD goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down. 24 "Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants. 25 When you enter the land that the LORD will give you as he promised, observe this ceremony. 26 And when your children ask you, 'What does this ceremony mean to you?' 27 then tell them, 'It is the Passover sacrifice to the LORD, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians.'" Then the people bowed down and worshiped. 28 The Israelites did just what the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron. 29 At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon, and the firstborn of all the livestock as well. 30 Pharaoh and all his officials and all the Egyptians got up during the night, and there was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead. 31 During the night Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "Up! Leave my people, you and the Israelites! Go, worship the LORD as you have requested. 32 Take your flocks and herds, as you have said, and go. And also bless me." 33 The Egyptians urged the people to hurry and leave the country. "For otherwise," they said, "we will all die!" 34 So the people took their dough before the yeast was added, and carried it on their shoulders in kneading troughs wrapped in clothing. 35 The Israelites did as Moses instructed and asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing. 36 The LORD had made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and they gave them what they asked for; so they plundered the Egyptians. 37 The Israelites journeyed from Rameses to Sukkoth. There were about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children. 38 Many other people went up with them, and also large droves of livestock, both flocks and herds. 39 With the dough the Israelites had brought from Egypt, they baked loaves of unleavened bread. The dough was without yeast because they had been driven out of Egypt and did not have time to prepare food for themselves. 40 Now the length of time the Israelite people lived in Egypt was 430 years. 41 At the end of the 430 years, to the very day, all the LORD's divisions left Egypt. 42 Because the LORD kept vigil that night to bring them out of Egypt, on this night all the Israelites are to keep vigil to honor the LORD for the generations to come. 43 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "These are the regulations for the Passover meal: "No foreigner may eat it. 44 Any slave you have bought may eat it after you have circumcised him, 45 but a temporary resident or a hired worker may not eat it. 46 "It must be eaten inside the house; take none of the meat outside the house. Do not break any of the bones. 47 The whole community of Israel must celebrate it. 48 "A foreigner residing among you who wants to celebrate the LORD's Passover must have all the males in his household circumcised; then he may take part like one born in the land. No uncircumcised male may eat it. 49 The same law applies both to the native-born and to the foreigner residing among you." 50 All the Israelites did just what the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron. 51 And on that very day the LORD brought the Israelites out of Egypt by their divisions.

This section of verses shows the Israelites being obedient by applying God's instructions to their lives. We see that after Moses receives the instructions from the Lord he then gathers the elders together and in verse 28 we see, *"28 The Israelites did just what the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron."* What was the result? The Israelites households were spared by the wrath of God. After the plague is passed through Egypt, Pharaoh summons Moses and Aaron before him asking them to leave with their people to worship their God. This happened just as God had predicted. Then again we again another example of the Israelites applying what God had instructed This was not only for their benefit but would serve as reminder to their children as they observed this ceremony. *Verse 35, "35 The Israelites did as Moses instructed and asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing."* Israel was obedient in applying God's instructions. What was the result? God gave them provisions that would benefit

them and bring Him glory. *Again in verse 50, ⁵⁰ All the Israelites did just what the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron.* What were they instructed to do? They ask to take serious the regulations God gave for the Passover Meal. They were to belong to God's covenant community which was identified by being circumcised. The Passover Meal was exclusively for God's people. The church today makes this same distinction when we observe the Lord's Supper. Whenever, we observe the Lord's Supper it must be understood that this is exclusively for those who have trusted in Christ. The reason we must make this distinction is not to keep people from coming to Christ, on the contrary is to provide clarity that only way to come to God is faith in Christ. What was the result of Israel obeying? *Verse 51, ⁵¹ And on that very day the LORD brought the Israelites out of Egypt by their divisions.* Are we obedient by applying what God as instructed? Have we trusted exclusively in the work of Christ for salvation? What is the evidence or fruit of this trust/confession? When we don't apply God's word we are denying its ability to transform our lives and others. How are you currently applying God's word in your life? What has been the result? Remembering what God has said will save your life.