

## **Freedom From Slavery (Exodus 5)**

Brynmawr Family Church Sermon (Family Service)  
Stuart Wheatman, Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> Oct 2010

### **Intro-**

- Imagine what it must have been like to be one of the Israelites at the time of the slavery under Pharaoh.

**Read 'A Thousand Bricks a Day'** (pgs 30-32 Bob Hartman, 'Telling the Bible', Monarch Books)

### **The Problem of Sin**

- Egypt was a great place to live for the Israelites, until this Pharaoh came along and made them slaves. Slavery is a horrible thing to have happen- it is where someone is forced to work really hard for someone else and not given the proper pay they deserve and not allowed to be free. Slavery still exists today in certain places. Over the years people have been made slaves for all sorts of reasons, including the colour of their skin.
- Pharaoh knew that what he was doing was wrong. The Bible says that he hardened his heart when God said to stop what he was doing- he was rebelling against God. We might think to ourselves 'I would never be like that', but would we? Sin is- rebellion against God. Selfishness. Breaking God's rules. We tend to think that certain sins aren't too bad e.g. a 'white' lie, but all sin is serious and makes God sad.
- We all sin- ever since the fall of mankind in the garden of Eden. A child will grow up to sin. Even 'good people' sin.
- There is however one person who never sinned- Jesus. God sorted out the problem of living a good life by becoming a human (Jesus Christ). He was fully man and fully God. He lived a good life and unlike every person that has ever lived, he didn't break any of God's laws. He was tempted in every way, just like us, but He never sinned, never hardened His heart towards God, like Pharaoh.

### **The Penalty of Sin**

- Pharaoh could see that He was in trouble with God when the plagues started hitting the land, but he did not choose to change his ways. In the end, because of Pharaoh's sin, many people in Egypt died when God brought judgement on the land. Also many of Pharaoh's soldiers died when he again rebelled against God and sent his army against the Israelites when they crossed the Red Sea.
- The Bible says that there is a result to the bad things we do- death. That is why there is death in the world. If God did not punish sin He would become a bad God. In order to still be a good God He must punish sin.
- The Bible says that one day we will all stand before God and have to answer to Him for all the things we have done in our life, good or bad. This is called the Day of Judgement. The result of this will mean each person going either to Heaven (where God is) or to Hell (where sin is punished).
- God loves each one of us more than we can ever imagine. He loves us so much that He Himself decided to take our punishment for the things we have done wrong upon Himself. He did this when He, Jesus, went to the cross and suffered and died.
- Jesus proved that the punishment of death had been taken for us by rising from the dead. He promises to all those who believe in Him and accept what He has done that they too will rise from the dead, to be with him in Heaven forever.
- We all have a choice to make- accept what Jesus has done for us, or reject it- the

choice is ours to make.

### **The Power of Sin**

- It took God's mighty power in great miracles to set the Israelites free from slavery. They did not have the power to free themselves.
- In the same way Jesus said 'He who sins is a slave to sin'. All sin has an addictive quality- once you try it you want a bit more, and before you know it you can't stop.
- Jesus also said 'He who the Son sets free is free indeed'. What we were powerless to do God did when Jesus died on the cross- He broke the power of sin over us. He took the selfish bit of each one of us that likes to disobey God and He killed it by nailing it to the cross. When Jesus rose again it is as if we came alive again, but without the sinful bit of us. We are now to consider ourselves as 'New Creations' and dead to sin. He also comes into our lives when we ask Him to, by His Holy Spirit and by His power enables us to live a good life, pleasing to Him. Although we can still sin, it does not sit well with us, we don't need to and it is no longer part of who we are.
- Picture of old headmaster telling us what to do, but we are now adults and he no longer has authority over us. Same as when many African Americans were set free from slavery the old masters could shout at them and order them around, but they no longer had any legal power over them.

### **Summary**

- Jesus overcame the problem of sin by living a perfect life.
- Jesus overcame the penalty of sin by dieing on the cross for us, and taking the punishment for all the things we do wrong in our lives. He proved He had overcome death for us by rising from the dead.
- Jesus overcame the power of sin by taking the bad part of us away when He died on the cross, so we could become like new people, able to please God and with God's Spirit living in us helping us to live for Him rather than sin.

**Application-** Prayer to become a Christian

**Songs:** *Lord I lift Your name on high*