

Small Groups @ TBC Sermon Discussion Notes

Date of Sermon: May 20th 2018

Speaker: David Lawrence

Title: Between The Rock and the hard place

Introduction: This talk reflected on what it means to be set free by God.

Review: Invite one or more who have heard the talk to give their own brief review.

Read: Exodus 4:27-6:1

Reflect :

- How would you describe the experience of the Israelites through the events described in this passage, as they move from hope in God's promises (4:29-31) and their subsequent treatment by Pharaoh (5:6-9)?
 - Is there any way in which you have ever had a similar experience of moving from hope to disappointment? How did you react? What gave you the resources to cope?
- Why does God's promise of freedom take so long to come to pass? To the Israelites it must have seemed that Pharaoh was the problem, and in one sense, he was! But what was Pharaoh's problem (5:2)?
 - How many of our problems result from living alongside (or working under) people who do not submit to God? What are the possible reactions to being in this state? (How did the Israelites respond (5:15,20-21)? And how did Moses respond (5:22-23)?
- Just as Israel were set free by God *from* slavery in Egypt, so they were set free *to* worship God and become his holy nation. Similarly, Christian freedom is both a freedom *from*, and a freedom *for*.
 - What are Christians set free from? Read Romans 7:21-8:4 (this is quite a dense passage: you may find it helpful to read it in the New Living Translation printed below).
 - What is people's experience of being set free *from*? (i.e. what did people feel freed from when they came to faith?)
 - Israel held festivals to celebrate their freedom, so that they and subsequent generations would not forget what God has done in setting them free. What is the advantage of remembering our captivity and freedom and how do we do this as Christians?
- What are Christians set free *for*? See Ephesians 2:10; 1 Peter 2:9-12 (a passage that draws explicitly on the Exodus story)?

Leaders: feel free to be selective and creative with your use of these notes.

Don't feel you have to use all of the material, but
do try to keep the shape of Review – Read – Reflect – Respond
and **DO make room for the 'And Finally' questions!**

Thornbury Baptist Church:

Following the Way of Jesus: Loving God - Loving One Another - Loving Neighbour & World

- What do people think the 'good works' are that God has set us free for (Eph 2:10)? In what ways do people think serving God in their normal daily lives is what God has set them free for?

And finally:

As you conclude, ask each person:

- What is the main thing you are taking away as an action point?
- How can we pray for you?
- Is there anything we can check on next time we meet?

Romans 7:21-8:5 (New Living Translation)

21 I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. **22** I love God's law with all my heart. **23** But there is another power[e] within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. **24** Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? **25** Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin.

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. **2** And because you belong to him, the power[a] of the life-giving Spirit has freed you[b] from the power of sin that leads to death. **3** The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature.[c] So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. **4** He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.

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