

Unpacking the Preach

Date: 22nd May 2022
Sermon Title: I am sending you: to live out your story
Bible Passage: Exodus 19: 1 - 6

Introduction

- If someone had to ask you, 'Hey, what's your story?' - how would you answer them?

Take time to read the passage from a couple of different translations.

- What is the background to this story?
- What stands out to you from this passage?
- Why do you think God sent Moses with this message for the people?

Recapping the Preach

In Exodus 19:1-6 God is telling the people of Israel the story that they are a part of, the story that they must live out. Stu said it is a story of three parts or three chapters. The first chapter would be titled 'Grace' - God chose Israel in grace to be His people and rescued them from slavery, not because of anything they had done themselves but because of His great love and mercy. The pattern is 1st: grace; 2nd: belief in God's grace and 3rd: loving, joyful, thankful obedience to God's commands in response to grace.

- How would you describe Israel's story up to this point?
- Why do you think God chose Israel to be His special people?
- What does God's closing of Israel tell us about God (see Exodus 34:6-7)?
- How would you describe 'grace' to a non-Christian friend?

Stu went on to say that chapter two of their story would be titled 'More Grace' as God gives Israel a new identity of 'kingdom of priests' and 'holy nation'.

- What are the primary functions of a priest in the Old Testament?
- What do you understand by the term 'holy nation'?
- Stu suggested that to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation was deeply missional? Would you agree / disagree?

Stu pointed out that the 3rd chapter of Israel's story would be titled 'Even More Grace'. Israel was chosen to be God's treasured possession. Stu highlighted the tension and condition in vs.5a and pointed out that obedience was not a condition of their salvation but it is a condition of their mission ie. it is only as they faithfully and obediently live out the new identity given to them that they would fulfil their mission and be a light to the gentiles.

- How did Israel do in terms of living out their identity?
- What were some of the struggles they went on to live out?
- What can we learn from Israel's story?

Stu concluded that nothing has changed and Israel's story is also our story, one of 'Grace, More Grace and Even More Grace'. He pointed to 1 Peter 2:9-12 (READ).

- How can we live out our priestly identity in the world?
- What would it look like for you to live a holy life on your frontline?

Response

- Is there anything from the preach and passage that you will be taking away to reflect on or work on?
- How can you live as a priest on your frontline this week?

Prayer pointers

- Take time to share prayer requests and pray for one another.

Additional resources:

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>