

## DESERT LESSONS

### ESCAPE

Exodus 12

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April 4 – 5, 2020

*Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the Lord your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. — Deuteronomy 5:15*

*Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and He will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him.*

— Hebrews 9:27 – 28

*He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed. — 1 Peter 2:24*

*... Jesus Christ, who is the faithful Witness, the Firstborn from the dead, and the Ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood. — Revelation 1:5*

*... they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb ... they are before the throne of God.*

— Revelation 7:14 – 15

*Sacrifice as the Passover to the Lord your God an animal from your flock or herd at the place the Lord will choose as a dwelling for His Name. Do not eat it with bread made with yeast, but for seven days eat unleavened bread, the bread of affliction, because you left Egypt in haste — so that all the days of your life you may remember the time of your departure from Egypt.*

— Deuteronomy 16:2 – 3

*A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough. — Galatians 5:9*

*Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough? 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. — 1 Corinthians 5:6 – 7*

#### Meditation for this week:

- Matthew 21 – 27
- Mark 11 – 15
- Luke 19 – 23
- John 12 – 19

*The centrality of the Cross changes everything. When you receive the Good News that Jesus died for you, the result is like dropping a rock in a smooth pond: The ripples radiate outward to the farthest edges of reality. It is the death of Christ that enables us to die to ourselves. It is his death that justifies us before God's perfect righteousness, that sets us free, that gives us courage to face persecution. The community centered on the Cross is a great company of people reconciled to God and each other through the Cross. People centered on the Cross know how to die, learn how to live, and love like they've been forever changed by the love they've received. The Cross reminds us of the entire sweep of salvation, and the sweep of salvation reminds us of the infinite love of God. — Fred Sanders*

*Once you were alienated from God ... But now He has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in His sight, without blemish and free from accusation. — Colossians 1:21 – 22*

- God has given me eternal life, by the blood of my Savior — I live because He died.
- God demonstrated His love for me in my worst condition — I am loved, because God loves perfectly.
- God is now with me, even in every dark valley — I can rest, because He is present.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What was one thing that stood out to you from this past weekend?
- Why do you think God gave the Israelites so many tangible, physical reminders?
- Why was God sending one plague after another on the Egyptians?
- In summary what were the people commanded to do in Exodus 12 to avoid dying when the angel of death passed over the land of Egypt?
- In what way did that ceremony actually prepare people to understand the salvation brought by Christ when He came as our sacrifice?
- What was another important Jewish tradition dating back to the Exodus, having to do with bread?
- Why is unleavened bread a great metaphor for our purity as God's people?
- This week, Passion Week (also called Holy Week) takes place between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday (Resurrection Sunday). Passion Week represents the passion with which Jesus willingly went to the cross to sacrifice Himself in our place — for our sins.
- This week you could read the following chapters: Matthew 21 – 27, Mark 11 – 15, Luke 19 – 23, and John 12 – 19. With no other distractions, spend some time meditating on what Christ has done for you!