



“The Rescue Plan”

Exodus 6:1-12

“Therefore, say to the Israelites: ‘I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment.’

Exodus 6:6

Getting on the Same Page

We try so hard to control outcomes. We say things like, “I have to do this,” and, “I need to do that.” We try to make someone approve of us. We try to force success in our careers. We try to keep our kids safe from a virus or from being bullied. We try to keep our bodies healthy and fend off diseases. And although we might be successful for a bit, we are anxious. And eventually, we will fail, because we have so little control over these things.

Enter God. He tells Moses, who has already not gotten favorable results with Pharaoh or the Israelites, that he has ‘appeared, established, heard, and remembered.’ He tells Moses that, by His power, he will deliver his people from slavery; that He will take them to be His people.

Regardless of our circumstances, we put way too much focus on ourselves, and not near enough on God. God was going to do the heavy lifting. He was going to bend Pharaoh's will through plagues, miracles, and raw power. All Moses had to do was tell Pharaoh what was going to happen. All the people would have to do eventually would be to start walking.

Because we don't trust God; because we put way too much focus on ourselves, we miss the beautiful simplicity of following Him. God will do the heavy lifting in our lives. He will do whatever it is he wants to do in and through us. All we have to do is to start and then keep walking. If God doesn't deliver us from a difficult situation, he must desire to work in the midst of that situation.

Ultimately, we know we can trust God because, many centuries after the Exodus, Jesus stretched out his arms and died for us on the cross, in our place. Three days later, God raised Jesus from the dead. Those who know Jesus will one day be raised to new, eternal life as well.

Discussion Questions

Getting Started

- Read Exodus 6:1-12. What stands out to you in this passage?
- Discuss a time when you put too much focus on something or someone, or tried to control something or someone you couldn't, and became anxious or frustrated about it.

Study

- Respond: God has a role for us to play in His story, but ultimately, he will do the heavy lifting.
- Respond: If God has not delivered you from your current circumstances, he must want to work IN THE MIDST of your current circumstances.
- Respond: Superficially, we can be enslaved and yet free. We can also be free and yet enslaved.
- God's plan has always been to rescue us from something, for something better. Discuss what the 'from' and the 'for' are.
- Respond: God's greatest act was displayed on the cross, where Jesus used his power, not to free himself from the cross, but to stay on the cross.

Apply

- Discuss what it would look like for you live faithfully but also allow God to do the heavy lifting.