

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

October 2013

Moses: Learning To Lead God's Way

Lesson #6: **The Price of Freedom**

INTRODUCTION

Why do we have "church traditions?"

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read Exodus 11

Note: The death of the firstborn represented the ultimate disaster since all the plans and dreams of the father were bound up in his firstborn who received a double share of the family estate when the father died. Judgment on the firstborn represented a judgment on the entire community (slave girl at her hand mill – the lowliest of occupations).

1. The Israelites were preparing to travel. What was God's purpose in asking them to take heavy gold and silver? Why not food?
2. How did the Egyptians feel about the Hebrews now? How did the Pharaoh feel? Why?

Read Exodus 12:21-30

Note: After 430 years of slavery it seems like Moses would have spent a lot of time explaining the details of the Exodus itself – how to organize and mobilize 2 million people. He could have described the graphic death of Egypt's firstborn, God's judgment and power toward the oppressive leader and nation. Instead, he explains the details of the first Passover. It would become such a solemn ceremony, reminding them of the high cost of deliverance, that it would mark the beginning of the religious year for them (v. 2)!

3. Why did it have the name "Passover"?
4. Why was God so specific about the instructions for eating the Passover meal?
5. What was the significance of an unblemished male lamb?
6. The lamb's blood had no power by itself. What made the blood worthwhile to the Israelites?
7. How do these passages help you see the purpose of Jesus' death and shed blood? 1 Cor 5:7, 1 Pet 1:18-20, 1 Jn 1:7; Lev 17:11; Jn 1:29; Heb 7:27; 9:22
8. What is the purpose of the Lord's Supper (Communion)? How does it compare to Passover?

Note: Relationship with God is a life or death issue. Only identification with the people of God as one of His own exempted one from death. Redemption brings freedom at the cost of death. Breaking the bondage of Egypt was not accomplished until the death penalty had been imposed. Israel's freedom was costly.

APPLICATION

What acts of faith is God asking you to perform that, like the blood on the doorframe and eating the Passover meal, show your faith in God's redeeming power?

Chapter 12 chapter describes the turning point in Israel's history. Israel changed from a herd of slaves into a nation of free people. From a group of defeated human wrecks, they became the army of the Lord. From a despised minority, they became the most important nation in the world. Their association with God made a bridge between earth and heaven. God started a new calendar. "This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year" (vs. 2). Israel still counts its years from the Exodus in Egypt, which puts them ahead some 2000 years of the Christians who reset their calendar with the birth of Christ. That the calculation of Christ's birth turned out to be erroneous does not change the principle that redemption marks the beginning of a new era.

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