

## **Talk 1 - Exodus 1**

### **Sovereignty Unplugged (Exodus)**

#### **1) The Exodus Exposed Egypt.**

- Egypt exposes the nation of Israel to genocide
- 4:21 - God hardens the heart of the Pharaoh (God plays a part in Pharaoh's rebellion) (7:3, 13, 22, 8:15, 32, 9:12, 35, 10:1, 14:17)
- This hardening shows that God's sovereignty even extends over evil. (Proverbs 16:4, Isaiah 45:7, 2 Thessalonians 2:11)
- The puritans called it, 'God ordaining evil'.
  - Not causing it.
  - It does not take him by surprise.
- God is about to use evil Egypt for his purposes.

#### **2) The Exodus Expose Israel.**

- The foreshadowing of Jesus coming to earth.
- Israel is exposed as being a pack of whingers.
  - Exodus 16
  - God didn't put Egypt through all the plagues, just so he could bury 2 million jews in the desert.
  - Every day they were dependent on the lord. (Manna for food, their safety)
- Every day we are reminded by the world around us that we don't need to be dependent on God.
  - Why?
    - Faithlessness
    - Pride

#### **3) The Exodus displayed "I AM"**

- God was setting up the means by which his name would be proclaimed. (Exodus 9:16)
- No evil surprises him.
- He is sovereign over it.

#### **4) The Importance of Being a Christian.**

- We constantly want to be in control.
- We are given a new heart.
  - To live in a different way
  - 2 Corinthians 4:6 - For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
- The life of Christians is not one of victory, it wasn't for our king.
- Being a Christian is about being in the desert with 2 million people, with no food and no water, with impending danger, and being able to say to God, 'I trust you'.

## **Talk 2 - Matthew 26:36-46 & Jeremiah 25:15-38**

### **Why?**

#### **1) Punch in the nose.**

- Sin is a massive problem.
  - It is against God.
  - It is the real issue.
  - Sin is a problem for God.
    - It must be dealt with.
    - If it wasn't a problem for him, he wouldn't be God.

#### **2) The Cosmic Problem.**

- Matthew 26 is a once in history event.
  - Jesus praying in the garden.
  - Jesus is so sorrowful.
    - It nearly kills him.
    - His face is constantly facing the ground.
    - He prays 3 times for his impending death to be removed from him.

#### **3) Once in History Event.**

- Colossians 1:16 - *For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.*
- Jesus created the universe, and what ever he was experiencing in the garden but of been so scary.
  - The Cup
    - God crushes his son
    - A relationship that had always experienced love and care, became a relationship of hate and judgement, all for us.
      - This should make us truly appreciate the fact the Jesus was crushed for our sin.

#### **4) Now but not yet.**

- We are not promised immediate relief from suffering.
  - He WILL take us to a place where there is no more tears.
  - He OFFERS hope.
- *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”* - Matthew 28:19-20
  - He never leaves us.
  - We should be bringing others into this future hope. Future Grace.

**If sin wasn't a problem for God, then he wouldn't be God. A perfect holy, just, righteous God.**

## **Talk 3 - Psalm 88**

### **The Gospel is NOT Paracetamol**

#### **1) Migraines and Pain Killers.**

- When suffering happens, it doesn't hurt.
  - It doesn't actually heal what is causing the pain.

#### **2) Do you have a Paracetamol Gospel?**

- Just living by faith and not sight will not keep you from experiencing suffering.
- Hebrews 5:7-9.
  - *In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.*

#### **3) First: A word to stoics.**

- Stoicism is pagan, and is a rejection of God being behind suffering, and being behind the solution.
- Happy no matter what.
  - My wife just left me.
    - But its ok, its for my good.
  - I just received some bad health news.
    - But its ok, its for my good.
- God is God that wipes away every tear (Rev)
  - There must be tears that need to be wiped away.
- Christians are realistic about pain and suffering.
  - Proverbs 25:20
    - Whoever sings songs to a heavy heart is like one who takes off a garment on a cold day, and like vinegar on soda.

#### **4) Second: a word to chronic whingers.**

- Psalm 88
  - O LORD, God of my salvation; I cry out day and night before you. Let my prayer come before you; incline your ear to my cry!
    - The prayer is sent to God alone.
- Our culture is impatient, because of:
  - Instant internet.
  - Instant phones.
  - Instant food.
  - Instant pain relief.
  - Instant TV, videos.
- Problems come up when we have to wait for things.
  - Health to get better.
- Evil is made better, when that evil turns us to prayer.
- Hope is always possible, Psalm 88.
  - Jesus came to be that hope.

#### **5) Gospel Hope**

- The dead will come back to life.
- Suffering is painful.
  - The gospel is our hope.
- The christian knows for certain that we will rise, and we will come into the hope that we have longed for.
- Christians need to remind each other of Gospel hope.
- One another ministry.
  - Preaching gospel hope to each other.

## **Talk 4 - Romans 8:26-39**

### **Topic**

#### **1) The All Stars.**

- We are children of God.
  - Romans 8:16-17
    - He gives us his holy spirit.
      - So that we can call him our Father and Dad.
- Because we are God's children, we are also heirs.
  - Providing that we suffer with Christ
  - We are Christians, and we groan.
    - Romans 8 tells us that it is ok to groan.
- Paul says that no suffering in this life can compare to the glory that will come in eternity.
- The Christian life is one of;
  - Birth
  - Fun
  - Suffering
  - Fun
  - Suffering
  - Death
  - GLORY

#### **2) A very important Question.**

- If God is for us, who can be against us?
  - Romans 8:31-36
    - *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or*

*distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?  
As it is written,*

*“For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”*

- Christ is interceding for us (8:34)
- We are promised that we will feel pain in this life (8:36)

### **3) ‘Nothing’ in the Greek means nothing.**

- There is therefore now **no** (nothing) condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

**Ουδεν** αρα νυν κατακριμα τοις εν Χριστω Ιησου·

### **4) Meet Matt.**

- No matter what suffering we experience, Jesus is better.
- Luke 12:33-34
  - *Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

### **5) Let’s play this out with an enemy.**

- We can’t lie that these things are better or sufficient over Jesus Christ.
  - Unemployment.
  - Relationship breakdown.
- God took the israelites into the desert to show them that he was enough.
- We do not grieve without hope.
  - Remind each other of this hope.
  - Crying will probably be needed.
  - There is nothing that will destroy us.
- Miraculous healing is not more amazing than day by day perseverance in their faith in the hope.
- Don’t just pray for healing, pray that they will hold on to the faith that they have.