

## Come to the Table (Part 1) Exodus 12

### Introduction

- Communion
  - Observe Communion in our service today
  - Why do we celebrate communion once a month?
    - To remember that Jesus died for our sins
    - But it's a bigger story than that!
      - The story of communion begins in the Old Testament
      - It's a story that is foundational to understanding the entire Bible
- Sermon Series: All In: The Family of God
  - Sermon Title: Come to the Table
  - Relates to Sunday evening program that begins tonight
  - Understand two things
    - Families are important
    - Community connection is important to the vitality of any church
- Family Dinner Stories
  - Every family has them and they are the stories that get told often
  - Protect your food from dad
  - Ranch makes everything taste better
  - "Yucky Charms"
- Similar to Communion; only the story was related to Passover
  - Exodus- Hebrews were slaves to Egypt
    - Became more numerous than the Egyptians (Exodus 1:6)
    - Egyptians feared that the Hebrews would over power them so they made them slaves (Exodus 1:10)
    - To combat the problem Pharaoh commanded that every newborn son to be thrown into the Nile River (Exodus 1:22)
    - Pharaoh's daughter had compassion for one newborn boy and protected him. He was named Moses. (Exodus 2:9-10)
  - Turning Point in Israel's history
    - Exodus 2:23-25 ESV, "During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. God saw the people of Israel- and God knew."
      - Moses was called by God through the burning bush
        - Lead the People
        - Purpose of showing Pharaoh who is really in charge, and display the glory of God before the people
        - Promise Land
  - 10 Plagues

- To prove to Pharaoh to release the Israelites
- Each time Pharaoh would be on the verge of giving in and then he would go back on his word
- Finally, the 10<sup>th</sup> and final plague brings us to the heart of our story
  - Plague had its own title: Passover
  - God would come at night, strike down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt
  - However, for the Hebrews, if they would take a lamb, sacrifice the lamb, take the blood of the lamb and spread it across the doorposts of their homes, God would Passover their homes and not strike down their firstborn.
  - Evening comes, the Hebrews obey God's command, God does just what he said he would do: Egypt's firstborn are struck down, while the Hebrew firstborn survive.
  - The devastation is too great, Pharaoh must give in, and the Hebrews are released
  - One final scene from this story
    - As the Hebrews are fleeing Egypt, the Egyptians run after them
    - The Red Sea stands as the last obstacle in the way of the Hebrew's freedom
    - God commands Moses to use his staff to part the Red Sea
    - The Sea opens up, the Hebrews pass through, and just as the Egyptians catch up to the Hebrews, the sea closes back and swallows the Egyptian army
- Relate this story to any "underdog win" over a rival
  - The story is told again and again no matter the circumstances
  - Remember that time...
  - Can you remember...
  - You begin to see why this story was so important to God's people
    - The impossible was made possible
    - God showed up
    - God delivered on his promise
    - If God did it once, he can do it again
- Not only did the Hebrew leaders and adults retell this story to remind the younger generations of their history, God also kept the story before the people as a reminder of what God had done, and what he would promise to do through Jesus Christ (deliverance from sin; salvation)
- The connection between the Passover and Jesus' crucifixion are the center of the entire Bible story
  - The hope of deliverance
  - The promise of salvation

- As the Apostle Paul stated in **Romans 6:17 ESV**, “But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.”
- What do we want to accomplish with this sermon today?
  - To know and understand the story of Passover and Communion as the foundation of the Biblical story
  - To make the Biblical story of salvation foundational to your life and your family’s story
  - To pass on the story of salvation to the next generation

### The Story of Passover and Communion as the Foundation of the Biblical Story

- Story of Adventure in our Family
  - Opportunity through limitations- Unable to go to Myrtle Beach 3 years ago
    - Explore New Opportunities
    - Learn New Skills
    - Overcome Fears
  - Life will constantly throw obstacles your way and you have to find a way to adapt and figure things out
    - Avery Climbing
    - Jackson and I downhill biking
- Similar to the Story of Passover
  - **Exodus 12:1-3; 14**
    - A New Year- A New Beginning
    - A Memorial throughout all generations
  - Take this one moment and apply it to the rest of your life
  - Hebrews would need this story to move from the Egypt through the wilderness to the Promise Land.
  - We need the same story of hope and vision for our lives
    - A story that will get us from where we are today to where God wants to take us
    - A story that will give us hope in the most desperate of times
    - A story that will be the foundation of our lives
- ESPN: 150 stories to celebrate 150 years of college football
  - Different coaches, broadcasters, analysis, players, etc. telling stories that made them fall in love with football
  - Stories of heartbreak and stories of triumph
  - Stories of family
  - All for how the love of the game shaped their lives
- What story will your family tell?
  - Can they tell how God has shaped their lives?
  - Can they tell how church has impacted them?
  - Example of Jackson: There are lots of kids at school who don’t go to church
  - God and church are the foundation that is shaping the story of their lives

## The Story of Salvation the Foundational to Your Family's Story

- **Exodus 12:5-7, 13**
  - Lamb was a sacrifice-as substitute for our sin has to be offered in place of death
    - Sin was just as much of the story of the Hebrews as the story of Deliverance
    - Humans are flawed, we not only make mistakes, but we act selfishly and hurt others. We are broken.
    - We need to acknowledge our brokenness. It's not about being perfect or having the perfect family. It's acknowledging our weaknesses and allowing God's grace to be the substitute in our lives.
  - Avery getting in trouble on vacation
    - Pool break, everyone out of the water
    - Avery hangs on to the side and dangles her foot over the water
    - "Get away from the water"
    - "I'm not touching the water"
    - REPEAT
    - Penalty: Get dressed, Your done, Shower
    - Response: Crying and "I didn't do anything!"
    - The scene for all the world to see
      - Crying
      - Yelling
        - I told you to get away and you didn't listen
        - BUT, I didn't do anything
      - Explanation
        - Who is in control?
          - What did I say?
          - When I tell you to do something you do it
        - Matter of Respect
          - It's not that you didn't touch the water
          - It's that everyone was told to get out of the water and away from the pool.
      - Attention
        - I love you, but you have to listen to what I say
        - Can you do that?
        - Let's try again
  - God needed to get the attention of the Hebrews
    - We need help
    - Pharaoh is too powerful
    - The Hebrews needed a moment to listen to God
    - Passover was not only to pronounce judgement on the Egyptians, but a moment for God to get the attention of the Hebrews.
    - A sacrifice had to be made.
      - The sacrifice was a sign of their faith

- The sacrifice was a sign of identity
- God wants to get our attention; Our families need to be delivered from the temptation to go along with the world
  - We need to be set free to set a new course, toward the promises of God
  - God has something better in store for us
  - We've got to make some sacrifices, but we also need to recognize the sacrifice that God has made for us
  - God has shown us the light of his truth despite the darkness of our sin.
  - We need to accept his truth as the Salvation of our lives and the foundation of our family's story.

### Pass on the Story of Salvation to the Next Generation

- **Exodus 12:25-28**
  - A moment became an annual event
  - It marked the beginning of each New Year
  - Remembered and retold so that generations who had not experienced the moment still knew the story.
- How will the next chapter in the story of MMBC be told?
  - 5 years ago "Might as well put a 'For Sale' sign in the front yard"
  - 5 years later "Family Church"
  - As we consider the next chapter, it requires us to acknowledge our weaknesses, but also our opportunities
    - Limited resources
    - Unique culture
    - Come to the Table
  - Turning point for the church
    - God shows his power in a way that we never could have imagined
    - We make the necessary sacrifices, but acknowledge what he sacrificed for us
    - Make a commitment that the Story of Salvation will be the foundational story of our family and church family
- The Passover was a turning point so was the cross
- How will the next chapter in the story of MMBC be told?

### Conclusion

- What do we want to accomplish with this sermon today?
  - To know and understand the story of Passover and Communion as the foundation of the Biblical story
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  - To pass on the story of salvation to the next generation
- I've already found this sermon series incredibly convicting
  - Recognize the responsibility of being a parent

- Important responsibility we have as a church to create an example for families and the next generation
- Something we all play a part in and something I believe God will hold us accountable for when we stand before his throne.
- In light of the sacrifice that Jesus has made for me, what sacrifice do I need to make in order to live faithfully for him?
  - Come to the Table
  - Grace and love
  - Respond to the responsibility to carry on the story