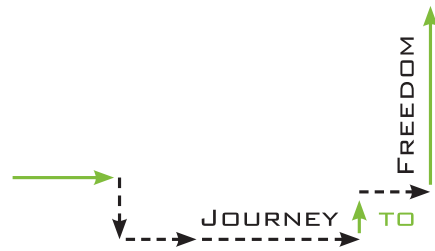


REPRESENTING THE DIVINE

northminster | April 10, 2011



“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” 2 Peter 2:9 (TNIV)

What Happened at Sinai

*“Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, **you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.**’ Exodus 19:3-6 (TNIV)*

A priest PUTS THE DIVINE ON DISPLAY.

Exodus: They are rescued and redeemed from sin and oppression.

Sinai: God rescues them to show the world WHAT GOD IS LIKE.

God and Moses (at Sinai)

*Now when the LORD spoke to Moses in Egypt, he said to him, “I am the LORD. Tell Pharaoh king of Egypt everything I tell you.” But Moses said to the LORD, “Since I speak with faltering lips, why would Pharaoh listen to me?” Then the LORD said to Moses, “See, **I have made you like God to Pharaoh**, and your brother Aaron will be your prophet. Exodus 6:28-7:1 (TNIV)*

Moses will be LIKE GOD

God and the People (at Sinai)

“And the LORD said to Moses, ‘Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow. Make them wash their clothes and be ready by the third day, because on that day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.’” Exodus 19:10-11 (TNIV)

1. They are invited to meet WITH GOD.

2. They are invited to BETHE MESSAGE.

Their redemption and rescue from Egypt is the message.

The Beginning of the Church

*“In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus **began to do and to teach.**” Acts 1:1 (TNIV)*

*“The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. . . **Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.**” 1 Corinthians 12:12, 27 (TNIV)*

The church is the body of Christ—the ongoing form of Jesus in the world—so that he can continue his LIBERATION OF HUMANITY FROM OPPRESSION.

Current Events

- 6 billion people in the world; 3 billion people live on less than \$2 a day. If you had \$2 today, tomorrow...
- 6,000 die daily in Africa from AIDS, (*Two 9/11s every day*)
- Every 3 seconds in the US a couple gets divorce.
- Every 4 hours a child commits suicide
- The average family income in Richmond is \$22,000
- 36% of the children in Richmond live in poverty; 60% live with single mothers
- Richmond contains the densest concentration of public housing south of New York city
- 72% of Gilpin Court residents live in poverty
- 40% of East End residents live in poverty; 60% lack high school diplomas
- The average age of school buildings in the city of Richmond is 72 years
- The cost of commuting to Short Pump for minimum wage jobs is not cost effective.

Our question for God: WHERE ARE YOU?

God’s question for us: WHERE ARE YOU?

God asks us, “What do you think is my plan to deal with suffering in the world? It’s US.

“But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God’s instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you—from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted.” 2 Peter 2:9 (MSG)

Love God. Love People. Transform Lives.