

EXODUS

v o l u m e 2

Our Response to Salvation (Exodus 19:1-6)

Bottom Line: When we remember what God has done to save us, it should motivate us to obey Him and to tell others about Him.

Can you recount a time when someone blessed you unexpectedly? How did you respond?

Read Exodus 19:1-6

If you remember, in Exodus 3:12, God made a promise to Moses, saying, “when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship me on this mountain.” And this mountain is where, after delivering the Israelites from bondage, God has led them. God has made good on His promise and has shown Israel immeasurable grace. There is a pattern that is laid out here before the Israelites of how they should react to the grace of God in their lives. The first thing that God tells Israel to do is simply to remember. In verse 4, God says, “you yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself.” Before God tells Israel what He wants them to do, He reiterates to them the deliverance that He brought them. He wants them to remember what He has done for them.

One of the most frequent commands in the Old Testament is the command to remember what God has done (over 70 distinct instances). Why do you think this is so important in the life of a Christian?

Read 2 Peter 1:5-9. According to this passage, what is the danger in not recounting what God has done for us?

Not only are the Israelites to remember what God has done, but that memory is to motivate them to *obey*. After calling them to remember their deliverance, God says, “Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant...” (v. 5). God has secured their salvation and He is now expecting their obedience to Him in return. What’s important to note here is that God saved Israel *before* He required obedience from them. God is not telling Israel that their obedience is what He expects from them in order to be saved. Instead, by prefacing His call to obedience with a call to *remember* what He has done, God is telling the Israelites what is expected of a people who are *already* saved.

Read Ephesians 2:8-10. How is this same idea seen here?

What difference does it make if our obedience is rooted in a response to *being* saved rather than a desire to *be* saved? What is our perception of the Law in each of these scenarios?

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First God tells Israel to remember what He has done for them in saving them from Egypt. This memory is meant to motivate them to obey God's commandments and His covenant with them. But this obedience is not the end goal, instead this obedience actually produces something. God says, "if you will obey my voice and keep my covenant, [then] you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (vv. 5-6). In the Old Testament, priests were the ones who represented God to the people and interceded for the people before God. In other words, by calling them a "kingdom of priests", God was saying that Israel would be the means by which He would bring the nations of the world to have knowledge of Him. They would be His evangelists, telling the nations of His might and glory.

God's desire was that Israel would become "a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." Why is obedience required if this is to be a reality? How would their disobedience prevent this from happening?

Read and discuss 1 Peter 2:9-12 as it relates to this study.

According to what we've learned in this study, why did God rescue you? And how is that being shown in the way you think about, feel about, and go about your life?

What has God done for you, specifically? Has this grace played any part in motivating you to obedience? How often have you spoken to others of this great thing that God has done? Have you seen others praise God because of His work in your life?

How can we do better at remembering what God has done for us?

Reflection: Read these aloud, using your discretion about which questions should be pondered and which questions should be discussed.

Has God saved you? Has He ransomed you from the bondage of sin? If He hasn't, then you don't have a proper motivation or even the capability for obedience and your striving will lead to frustration. Think hard about this: has God delivered you from your sin through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ?

If He has, how often do you dwell on this and remind yourself of the Gospel? Do you see a correlation between how often you set your mind on the Gospel and how often you fall into sin and disobedience? How can you develop a rhythm or habit of remembrance in your life?

Does this knowledge of God's grace motivate you to obedience? In other words, do you obey because you love God or because you want to be loved by God?

Is God's mercy and grace precious enough to you that you will tell someone about it? Who will you tell about what God has done? Who can you share the Gospel with?