

## SERMON NOTES

SERIES: Exodus: Set Free to Live Free  
TITLE: Look back to look forward  
**SCRIPTURE: Exodus 13:1-22**  
DATE: November 27, 2016  
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We are in a series on the Book of Exodus from the Old Testament. Why study this book? Exodus is the Old Testament story of the salvation of God's people that points forward to the great salvation that comes to us by faith in Jesus. Exodus helps us better understand what it means for God to *set us free* from our broken, messy lives so we can *live free* in loving, personal relationship with God.

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As God brings Israel out of slavery and to the promise land, he doesn't simply want them to forget what happened there and just move on. He wants them to look back in order to look forward.

Imagine driving your car and never being able to use your mirrors. What would that be like? Even then, you need to look back to help you move forward. It was the same for Israel. But how? How did God want them to do that? And how do we do this in Christ as we seek to live in God's freedom today?

### **How should we look back to look forward?**

Specifically, God gave Israel the Passover to "look back" and remember what he did for them. And he called them to a continual remembering of this. They were even supposed to explain the Passover feast to their kids, and retell the story of God setting them free by the blood of the Passover lamb.

The lamb's blood was a redeeming blood. To redeem means to buy something back with a price. This is a crystal clear snapshot of what Jesus has done for us.

Looking back to look forward doesn't merely include the Passover meal for Israel, it was also a bold reminder of God's *present* presence with them as they made their way to the promise land.

Now, as Christians, we are to do the same. We are called to look back to the gospel of Jesus, our perfect Passover lamb. And looking back at the gospel should be what we do with all of life, whether we are angry, depressed, joyful, or hopeful - we should view all of life in relationship with the gospel of Jesus.

As we look back to look forward, we should remember:

1. The power of ritual
2. The principle of firstfruits
3. The price of redemption

4. The presence of God

As we consider our journey ahead, we will have greater confidence in the power of God's nearness when we look back at his faithful love in the past.

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**For Discussion:**

1. What are specific ways for you to "apply the gospel to all of life"? Who do you know who does this well?
2. When is a time you have doubted or question God's presence in your own life? What brought you hope or peace in those times?
3. Which of the final four "rememberings" stands out to you the most? Why? Which one is most pertinent to what you're facing right now?