

## SERMON NOTES

SERIES: Exodus  
TITLE: Where is God?  
SCRIPTURE: **Exodus 1:8-2:10**  
DATE: August 28, 2016  
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We are in a series on the Book of Exodus from the Old Testament. Why study this book? For one, it's simply an epic Bible story of good versus evil. And, as far as the Jewish people are concerned, it is the "greatest story ever told." But even more, the themes of this book help us better understand the great salvation that has come to us through the Cross of Christ. In the book of Exodus we meet our great God; "the" One True and Living God who sets us free so we can live free in a loving relationship with Him.

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**In the book of Exodus—God is making himself known as the God who rules over the nations and redeems those who call upon his name.**

A right view of God directly impacts every life circumstance we face and every emotion we feel.

- Don't put your hope in things that can be taken away; put your hope in who you have and whose you are that cannot be taken away. If your ultimate hope is in anything other than God and his Word then you will end up disappointed, bitter, or worse.

**God is always working to set his people free, but he does so in very strange ways.**

- "Until you are ravished by, bowed down in, astounded before, the beauty and glory and presence of God, you aren't free." —Tim Keller  
*God uses difficulty and suffering to grow us and shape us into the kind of people who love him and trust him more than anything else.*  
*Sometimes, God seems to be silent and absent when we go through difficulty.*
- Don't mistake God's silence for God's absence—you know the rest of the story—God is working behind the scenes in ways you cannot see to set you free.
- Just because you can't see any good reason for the difficulty you're going through, doesn't mean there can't be any good reason for it.
- For example, one of the great ironies in these two chapters is that only *because* Pharaoh tried to kill off all the boy babies did Moses end up receiving the training he needs to be a great leader.
- *Most often, God works through the weak and powerless, not through the strong and powerful.*
  - For example, in these chapters, we see God using women (who had little to no status at that time) to save His people.

- God especially likes to work through people who have been told or felt all their lives that they are nobodies. *He knows your name!*

**But we need to look beyond the Exodus story if we are to be truly free to love and trust God more than anything else.**

- Those principles—true as they are—will not set us free. We need more than principles; we need a person. Trying to live the principles apart from Jesus will strangle you.
- Only if you see the person to whom Moses points will the principles Moses teaches you not strangle you.

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**For Discussion:**

1. The Bible draws a comparison between the ark (in Genesis) and the basket used to save Moses. Have you previously connected those two stories? If not, how does it affect your view of God to have them connected?
2. This story highlights how God frequently uses people many cultures believe to be “nobodies” in order to advance his Kingdom and his story. How does knowing our “heroes” are often “weak” and “powerless” make you feel about trusting God? And about yourself?
3. Can you think of examples when God has worked in and through you in strange ways? How did (or do) you feel in the middle of those situations?