

Doomed to Repeat | February 7, 2021

Week 6 | Exodus 11-13 | Commemoration and Consecration

****Don't forget to mention baptisms and communion on Sunday, February 21.

The entire premise of this series is to teach you principles that'll help you avoid repeating the same mistakes over and over again.

- In week 1, we learned from Joshua 1 to trust God and obey His commands.
- In week 2, we read Deuteronomy 30, where Moses reiterates the Jews' need to trust and obey God and encouraged them to repent if they failed to do so. And if they repent, God will restore them.
- In week 3, we studied the two fundamental flaws that the generation of Israel who wandered the desert for forty years lacked: humility and hindsight. Moses told their descendants that the best chance they had at avoiding their parent's and grandparents' mistakes was that they needed to squash any pride in their hearts, and they had to remind themselves of what God had done for them.
- In week 4, we addressed the people who simply do not want to change. In Numbers 13 and 14, we read about how the children of Israel listened to their fears rather than step out by faith. They even wanted to go back to their old life in Egypt; they wanted to become slaves once again. Through that scene, we learned that when inertia and nostalgia come together, the results are catastrophic.
- Last week, we studied one of the most famous stories in the bible: The Red Sea crossing. That story illustrated what happens when a people decide to change, move forward, and better themselves. It shows that God will do miraculous things when a follower of God moves onward and direct their praises upward.

Today, as we close our series, we are going to look at the very first steps of Israel as a nation. This journey leads them away from their old life as slaves of Egypt into a new life as servants of God. They had been delivered in a spectacular fashion, and, as we talked about last week, it was time to move onward and upward for God's glory. But before they ever take that first step

into a new life, God institutes a practice of both commemoration, that is, the Passover, and consecration, that is, the dedication of the firstborn. Through these two traditions, the children of Israel would ensure they would not soon forget what God had done for them. Should they commemorate what God did for them and consecrate themselves for God moving forward, the Exodus would go down in history as the day God delivered a nation from bondage.

But, unlike Israel, the Christian does not celebrate the Passover or set aside the firstborn of their flock and family. Instead, the believer participates in an even greater celebration. One that does not commemorate the exodus of a nation but the deliverance of mankind: communion. Through the Lord's Supper, the Church remembers the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And that remembering compels us to not offer up a dead animal but a living sacrifice: ourselves. Through our own commemoration and consecration, the Christian takes their first steps into a new and better way, forever leaving their old lives behind them, never again being doomed to repeat their past mistakes.

READ: Exodus 11 (ESV)

¹ The Lord said to Moses, "Yet one plague more I will bring upon Pharaoh and upon Egypt. Afterward he will let you go from here. When he lets you go, he will drive you away completely. ² Speak now in the hearing of the people, that they ask, every man of his neighbor and every woman of her neighbor, for silver and gold jewelry." ³ And the Lord gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover, the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh's servants and in the sight of the people.

⁴ So Moses said, "Thus says the Lord: 'About midnight I will go out in the midst of Egypt, ⁵ and every firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the slave girl who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the cattle. ⁶ There shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there has never been, nor ever will be again. ⁷ But not a dog shall growl against any of the people of Israel, either man or beast, that you may know that the Lord makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel.' ⁸ And all these your servants shall come down to me and bow down to me, saying, 'Get out, you and all the people who follow you.' And after that I will go out." And he went out from Pharaoh in hot anger. ⁹ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Pharaoh will not listen to you, that my wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt."

¹⁰ Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh, and the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the people of Israel go out of his land.

READ: Exodus 12:1-13 (ESV)

¹ The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ² "This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. ³ Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household. ⁴ And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. ⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, ⁶ and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.

⁷ "Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸ They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. ⁹ Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. ¹⁰ And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹ In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover. ¹² For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. ¹³ The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

We're then given more specifics about how the Passover should be observed, and then we come to the event itself.

READ: Exodus 12:29-39 (ESV)

²⁹ At midnight the Lord struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of the livestock. ³⁰ And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he

and all his servants and all the Egyptians. And there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where someone was not dead.³¹ Then he summoned Moses and Aaron by night and said, “Up, go out from among my people, both you and the people of Israel; and go, serve the Lord, as you have said.³² Take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone, and bless me also!”

³³ The Egyptians were urgent with the people to send them out of the land in haste. For they said, “We shall all be dead.”³⁴ So the people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneading bowls being bound up in their cloaks on their shoulders.³⁵ The people of Israel had also done as Moses told them, for they had asked the Egyptians for silver and gold jewelry and for clothing.³⁶ And the Lord had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

³⁷ And the people of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about **six hundred thousand men** on foot, besides women and children.³⁸ A mixed multitude also went up with them, and very much livestock, both flocks and herds.³⁹ And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough that they had brought out of Egypt, for it was not leavened, because they were thrust out of Egypt and could not wait, nor had they prepared any provisions for themselves.

We’re then told some more details about how long they were in Egypt and then even more instructions about observing Passover. This passage is fascinating for several reasons, but foremost amongst them is God's assumption that the Children of Israel would have future Passovers. Had Israel's survival been in doubt, there wouldn't have been instructions.

And finally, we come to our main passage.

READ: Exodus 13:1-3 (ESV)

¹ The Lord said to Moses, ² “**Consecrate** to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine.”

³ Then Moses said to the people, “**Remember** this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the Lord brought you out from this place. No leavened bread shall be eaten.

Moses then gives specifics about the feast of unleavened bread. And then, he tells the purpose for why they are instituting this commemoration.

READ: Exodus 13:8-10 (ESV)

⁸You shall tell your son on that day, 'It is because of what the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt.' ⁹And it shall be to you as a sign on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes, that the law of the Lord may be in your mouth. For with a strong hand the Lord has brought you out of Egypt. ¹⁰You shall therefore keep this statute at its appointed time from year to year.

But not only were they supposed to commemorate—that is, remember what God had done for them—they were also supposed to consecrate—that is, dedicate, sanctify, set apart—their firstborn children and the firstborn of their animals to the Lord.

READ: Exodus 13:11-12 (ESV)

¹¹"When [not if] the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, ¹²you shall set apart to the Lord all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the Lord's.

READ: Exodus 13:14-16 (ESV)

¹⁴And when in time to come your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' you shall say to him, 'By a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. ¹⁵For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the Lord all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.' ¹⁶It shall be as a mark on your hand or frontlets between your eyes, for by a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt."

The chapter closes by talking about how God led the Children of Israel away from civilized land toward the south and, ultimately, how they arrived at the Red Sea's shores. The bible tells us they were led by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

SO, WHAT'S THE TAKEAWAY?

Commemorate today what God did yesterday and **consecrate** today what God will use tomorrow.

Let's talk about the word "**commemorate**."

Through the practice of the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Children of Israel were to remember what God did during the exodus out of Egypt. In fact, this is a tradition that faithful Jews still participate in today.

But Christians do not commemorate the Exodus, do they? Instead, we have our own version of the Passover. We commemorate the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ through communion. The Lord's Supper is a commemoration service meant to remind us of everything the Lord has done for us. It is a recollection of an even more significant exodus than the one that we read about today. Like Passover, communion celebrates the day that Jesus Christ led the captive free, but not from bondage to any human institution, but from bondage to sin. We are freed from the penalty of death itself through the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

In fact, we read about this very practice in Luke 22. As Moses did with the Children of Israel, Jesus did with the disciples.

READ: Luke 22:14-23 (ESV)

¹⁴ And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. ¹⁵ And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶ For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." ¹⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. ¹⁸ For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." ¹⁹ And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in **remembrance** of me." ²⁰ And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. ²¹ But behold, the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table. ²² For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!" ²³ And they

began to question one another, which of them it could be who was going to do this.

Like the Passover, communion has been and will forever be a command. It is not a choice. It is not something we do if we just so happened to have the time. Whenever we do it, the church must make it a priority. It is not only good for a church to learn, pray, and sing together, but it is needful for a church to eat together. Meaning, if you want to avoid repeating the same mistakes over and over again, whenever we hold a communion service, you must make it a priority to participate. You must take time out of your year to remember...to commemorate Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

Let's talk about the word "consecrate."

Are we supposed to slaughter an animal and dedicated our firstborn? Well, in a way, yes. We—you and me—are the animal to offered...dedicated...consecrated to the Lord.

READ: Romans 12:1-2 (ESV)

¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service*. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

"A living sacrifice," is what Paul calls the Christian. Why? Well, first, let's talk about sacrifice in the literal sense. Generally speaking, a sacrifice was set-apart—that is, consecrated—for a specific purpose: to die. Throughout this gruesome practice, the sins of those who offered the animal would be expunged, and the person would be made clean in the eyes of God. Whether lamb's blood or that of Jesus Christ himself, there is no remission of sins without the shedding of blood.

So, does that mean we are to literally give shed our blood and burn ourselves as an offering for Christ? No. The Christian is not meant for destruction. However, we *are* meant for *consecration*. We may not burn ourselves on an altar, but we are to be "used up" in service for God. We must expend our energies—our lifeforce, our bodies, our

everything—in total and in utter submission to the cause of Christ.¹ God no longer requires that we give a lamb, as the perfect Lamb was already provided on our behalf; now God requires that the giver give himself.² Like a lamb, we give up our lives in service to God; but unlike a lamb, we keep on living in service Christ.

SO, WHAT'S THE SERIES **TAKEAWAY**?

1. **Whatever** God commands, we will obey. **Wherever** God sends, we will go. We will trust and obey.
2. A life of unrepentance is doomed for **ruination**. But a life of repentance is destined for **restoration**.
3. **Humility** and hindsight are the **guardrails** of a new life.
4. Living in the **past** prevents us from seeing the blessings in the **future**. Nostalgia and inertia are the guides leading to catastrophe.
5. Direct your steps **onward** after the Lord and declare your song **upward** for the Lord.
6. **Commemorate** today what God did yesterday and **consecrate** today what God will use tomorrow.

¹ Morris, Leon, *The Epistle to the Romans*, The Pillar New Testament Commentary, (Cambridge, U.K.; Eerdmans Publishing, 1988), p. 434.

² Moo, Douglas, *The Epistle to the Romans*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament, (Grand Rapids; Eerdmans Publishing, 1996), p. 750.

Video Description

Doomed to Repeat | Week 6 | Commemoration and Consecration

TEXT: Exodus 11-13

Today, as we close our series, we are going to look at the very first steps of Israel as a nation. This journey leads them away from their old life as slaves of Egypt into a new life as servants of God. They had been delivered in a spectacular fashion, and, as we talked about last week, it was time to move onward and upward for God's glory. But before they ever take that first step into a new life, God institutes a practice of both a commemoration and a consecration. Through these two traditions, the children of Israel would ensure they would not soon forget what God had done for them. Should they commemorate what God did for them and consecrate themselves for God moving forward, the Exodus would go down in history as the day God delivered a nation from bondage.

Unlike Israel, the Christian does not celebrate the Passover or set aside the firstborn of their flock and family. Instead, the believer participates in an even greater celebration. One that does not commemorate the exodus of a nation but the deliverance of mankind: communion. Through the Lord's Supper, the Church remembers the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And that remembering compels us to not offer up a dead animal but a living sacrifice: ourselves. Through our own commemoration and consecration, the Christian takes their first steps into a new and better way, forever leaving their old lives behind them, never again being doomed to repeat their past mistakes.

Pastor's manuscript can be found here:
