

SERMON: SOUNDS LIKE JESUS TO ME

Exodus 12:1-13a

(1) And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying. (2) This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you. (3) Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying. In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house: (4) And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next unto his house take it according to the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb. (5) Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats: (6) And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. (7) And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. (8) And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs, they shall eat it. (9) Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof. (10) And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire. (11) And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste; it is the Lord's Passover. (12) For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beasts; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgement: I am the Lord. (13a) And the blood shall be to you a token upon the houses where you are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you.

Introduction

It has been said over and over again that the Old Testament is the New Testament concealed and the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed. Both Testaments are connected by a Scarlet Thread, the Blood of our Savior. The Old Testament produced types that reached their culmination and perfection in the New Testament.

A type is a person, thing, or event that anticipates, foreshadows, or symbolizes a future person, thing, or event. To use architectural terms: the type is the blueprint and the future person, thing, or event is the edifice. The Passover Lamb was a type of Christ as our substitutionary sin offering. As we celebrate Holy Communion, let us see the parallels between the Passover Lamb and our Suffering Savior on the old rugged cross.

Exposition

1. The Lamb Must Be Without Blemish
(No Defects Whatsoever-Flawless)

2. The Lamb Must Be In His Prime
(One Year Old- A Yearling)

3. The Lamb Must Dwell with the Family
(Spend Four Days Being Petted and Examined by the Family)
(Lambs Bond Quickly with Humans)
(A Relationship Was To Be Formed Between the Lamb and the Family)
4. The Lamb Was To Be Slain/Sacrificed
(The Innocent for the Guilty)
5. The Lamb's Bones Were Not to Be Broken
(The skeleton was to remain intact to indicate the unity of God with His people and the unity among themselves)
6. The Lamb's Blood Was to Be Sprinkled on the Door Posts
(The Application-It Was Not the Goodness of the People in the House, But the Blood That Made the Great Difference)
7. The Lamb's Flesh Was to Be Eaten
(Protein-Nourishment for the Journey)
(While The Enemy Was Suffering God's People Were Feasting)
8. The Lamb's Leftovers Were to Be Burned
(Only Appropriated for God's People)
(This Was No Ordinary Food)
9. God's People Were Spared
(The Death Angel Passed By the houses with the blood)
(They were prepared to leave Egypt)
(They were waiting for the signal to begin the exit)
10. God's People Were Delivered
(Pharaoh Ran Them Out-He Didn't Just Let Them Go)
(Two Million People Were Free)
(The March to Freedom Could Have Been Ten Miles In Length)

Closing Thoughts

Christian life is a combination of amnesia and *deja vu*. We are to forget somethings. There are other things we must never forget. Holy Communion is a sacred ritual designed by our Savior to keep His saving work on the cross fresh on our hearts and our minds. Give God Glory! Give God all the Glory!

Related Scriptures

Exodus 12:1-51; John 1:29; 1st Corinthians 5:7; Hebrews 11:28

End Notes

1. There are some worship experiences that are hard, if not impossible, to duplicate. If you try to duplicate the service, it would be artificial. It was one of those unique experiences which gave me the title of this sermon. It occurred at the Saint James Missionary Baptist Church of Gulfport, Mississippi as I was reading the fifty-third chapter of Isaiah for the morning Scripture selection. At various intervals in the reading the late Mother Annie Mae Warren, who was a pastor's widow, would shout out in a rhythmical cadence, "Sounds like Jesus to me!" After she did a few iterations of the cadence the whole church was chanting, "Sounds like Jesus to me!" This came after each verse. It was true call and response. When the last verse was read, the church went into a holy frenzy. During the holy chaos, the late Deacon Spencer Handshaw, led the traditional song, *Jesus Is Real to Me*. After things quieted down, I said a few words, we celebrated Holy Communion, and went home. Saint James believed in order, but everybody knew this was real. We never tried to duplicate this experience. We knew only the Holy Spirit could do that. Praise the Lord! Like many people of my generation, we have rich experiences that we are just now fully appreciating their true worth.

2. Passover comes from Hebrew noun "pesah" which comes from the verb "pasah" which means to leap over. A form of this root word is also the word for "dance." Theologically, I guess, after we realize the solemnity of the sacrifice, we then think of the goodness of God and His deliverance and we "burst out" with a praise dance.

3. The person, thing, or event prefigured by the type is called the "antitype." The term is too ingrained in theological culture to change, but it sounds too much like antichrist. The Greek prefix "anti" can mean many things: The most common meanings are "against" or "opposite." It can also mean "leaning up against" for support. This is the case here. Simply put: the antitype leans on the type until the antitype comes to fruition or visually appears. Of course, this is figurative language.

4. The question: Where did the Hebrews get the lambs from? (I know a preposition should not come at the end of a sentence. Mrs. McKay, my English teacher, taught me that.) The cruel Egyptians did allow the Hebrew to have gardens and to keep a small flock of sheep. This made it easy for the Egyptians as the Hebrew slaves sustained themselves. However, it made it harder on the Hebrews; they had to work on construction sites and then go to Goshen and tend their crops and flocks. There was a silver lining: when it was required by God for them to bring lambs for the Passover sacrifice they already had them. Remember this: God supplies what He demands; He supplies it before He demands it. This is a good time to shout! If you don't shout at least say Amen!