

Sermon: **“Three Stories of Deliverance” (Various Texts)**

Date: **May 17, 2020**

Stories can be powerful. They can capture our imaginations and teach us profound truth. Many of the books of the Bible are narrative history. They contain powerful stories that teach us about God and about ourselves. In this week’s study, we will look at three stories of deliverance—three stories where we will see God deliver his people in his time. We will see a story of deliverance from slavery in the book of Exodus. We will look at a story of deliverance from apostasy in the book of Ruth. Finally, we will study a story of deliverance from the curse in the Gospels. And as we study these three stories, we will see that our Sovereign God delivers his people in his time, and often his people don’t even know when his deliverance has begun. Thus, his people must faithfully endure the trials of life, trusting that God’s deliverance will one day come.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please ensure that you’ve listened to Sunday’s sermon.
 - a. Read Exodus 1:15-21. Were the Hebrew midwives right to defy Pharaoh and even lie to him? Why or why not?
 - b. Read Exodus 2:23-25. What did Israel do in response to their very difficult situation?
 - c. How did God respond to the cry of his people in Exodus 2:24-25? Consider the verbs in these verses.
 - d. How does God ultimately answer their prayers and rescue his people from slavery in Egypt?
 - e. The second story we considered is from the book of Ruth. Explain the context of this book (Ruth 1:1).
 - f. Read Ruth 4:18-22. What is significant about this family tree? What is encouraging and hopeful about these verses?
 - g. Explain the historical context of Luke 2, when Jesus is born.

- h. Read Luke 2:25-35. How is Jesus described in this passage? What is his purpose according to this passage?

- i. How did the coming of Jesus and his act of deliverance happen in a way that was unexpected?

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?

2. What do we learn from Exodus 2:23-25 about the power of prayer? Why is it important to persevere in prayer during times of trials?

3. How can we stay motivated in prayer when a trial lasts longer than we expected?

4. God delivers according to his perfect timing. How can we cultivate patience in our lives as we wait for his deliverance? What does patience look like in the midst of a trial like ours?

5. In Ruth 4:18-22, we see that God takes ordinary families and powerfully uses them for his glory. How does this encourage you to live faithfully to the calling that God has placed upon your life?

6. The gospel of Jesus Christ is the ultimate act of deliverance. How does the gospel comfort you during this current crisis? What lessons do we learn from the coming of Christ and from the cross of Christ that we must remember in times like these?

Church-Wide Prayer Requests

- Pray that the Lord would hasten the day when we can gather again for public worship (Hebrews 10:25).

- Pray for the church to be “eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace,” (Ephesians 4:2-3).