

Sermon Notes

Trinity United Methodist Church

September 25, 2005

“With an Eye to the Future”
Dr. Dan Johnson, preaching
Exodus 12:24-28

1. The Theological Journey - on the way to knowing God; “Then you will know that I am the Lord your God.” (Exodus 6:7) The series of events with the plagues were all designed to demonstrate that God (Yahweh) was God, not the gods that the Egyptians worshipped. For example, there was the Nile god, a frog god, etc. and the chief Egyptian god - the Sun god, and Pharaoh was his representative. By blocking out the sun in midday, covering the land in darkness, Yahweh was making it clear who was God.
2. The Sacramental Journey (Exodus 12) and the institution of Passover - “This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord - a lasting ordinance” (12:14). In the New Testament, Jesus becomes the Passover lamb, the sacrifice of God.
3. The Futuristic Journey (Exodus 12:25,26) - “When you enter the land... and when your children ask you, ‘What does this ceremony mean to you?’ tell them, ‘It is the Passover sacrifice to the Lord...’” The church commemorates Jesus’ act of sacrificial love on our behalf in the two sacraments: Baptism and Holy Communion. We extend the first to children, as they did in the New Testament, in their earliest stages of life. And each time we receive Holy Communion, regardless of age, we “ask” what it means and we recite the story of Jesus’ self-giving love.
4. The Impossible Journey - or The Journey through the Impossible (Exodus 14) - crossing the Red Sea. God is the God of the impossible, the God who opens a way when there appears to be no way.
5. A Song for the Journey - The Song of Miriam, the Song of the Sea (Exodus 15).
6. Living into the Journey - complaints, longing for the earlier and familiar, preoccupation with food, forgetting about the destination, and creating a golden calf (falling back into our old ways), and second chances.
7. Guidance for the Journey - The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20).