

Sunday, May 5, 2019 - "Free - Week 3 - Free To Rejoice" - Norflette Shumake

Key Passages: Galatians 4:21-31, Ephesians 2:8, Genesis 17:15

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- The Gospel is sufficient in itself
- Justification through faith alone (Justified = Just as if I never did it)
- Galatians 4:28: We are children of promise...free to rejoice and walk in that promise
- Isaac was a child of promise
  - Abraham and Sarah are like us: sometimes we think we need to give God a little help (Hagar/Ishmael)
  - But Isaac was a miracle (his name actually means laughter)
  - God sometimes puts us in situations and gives us miracles so we can only say "God did it!"
- Like we sometimes do, Jerusalem was struggling with a miracle (Jesus' salvation)
- They were struggling with the goodness and grace of God apart from works and the law
  - God requires nothing from us but our faith...our responsibility is availability
  - Paul was trying to help the Galatians get past justification by works
- "Believe the work, no work to believe" - Norflette Shumake
- Paul was preaching that you can have a "mixture" (faith AND the law, works AND grace). It's only the work of God
- We have been adopted
  - God treats us like his very own children (this includes all the rights of inheritance)
  - we want us and chooses us
- But we grow in our identity as adopted children through INTIMACY not through obedience (obedience flows from intimacy and relationship)
- Slavery vs. Freedom
  - Our identity flows from the system we grew up in
  - We can't be children of the promise with works based faith
  - 2 systems: Law vs. Spirit / Works based vs. grace / self effort vs. faith
- The opposite of promise is self reliance: trusting in what God can do instead of what you can do
- God's objective is to remind you that you are a child of promise
  - Galatians 4:27: Sing and rejoice (a miracle that has nothing to do with your capacity or capability)
  - Isaiah 64: Sing and rejoice for your maker is your husband (He is a promise keeper)
  - We can trust that He who began a good work in us will complete it

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. What does it mean, like really mean, to you that you are adopted as a son or daughter of God?
2. How have you wrestled with justification by works and justification by faith?
3. Why do you think that we struggle with works/the law as much as we do?
4. What does it practically look like for you to live as a child of promise?
5. Norflette said our responsibility is availability, what does that mean to you personally?
6. How is God calling you to intimacy with Him? What will the results of growing intimacy with Him be?
7. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or sermon?

**\*\*15 Minutes with God Reading Plan-**

Mon: James 1 Tues: James 2 Wed: James 3 Thurs: James 4 Fri: James 5

Songs from the weekend: [In Jesus' Name - *Israel Houghton*] - [The Way (New Horizon) - *Pat Barret*] - [Jesus At The Center - *Israel Houghton*] - [There's No Other Name - *Bethel Music*]