

Sunday, March 28 2021 - "Remarkable - Week 11: The Upper Room" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Mark 14:12-26, Exodus 6:6-8

- 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

- Familiarity breeds complacency - Doug Kempton
- Imagine hearing the story of the Gospel for the first time
  - Jesus chose to willingly go to the cross
  - As it becomes familiar we miss the wonder
  - We have to slow down and engage our imaginations
- Mark 14:12-26 - What was really going on in the upper room
- At Grace we believe the Gospels are factual and historically accurate
- The meal in the upper room was what is now know as a seder meal
  - It was a ordered and organized meal
  - It would help the storyteller tell the story of the passover
  - Exodus story: the movement of God in and for the people of Israel
- The meal required preparation and planning
  - They would set up a meal/table for unknown guests
  - The disciples had to gather the necessary elements for the ordered meal
- Each event or chapter in the story had a corresponding cup (4 cups)
- Exodus 6:6-8
  - The I will statements of God
  - The four cups: slavery, plagues, sacrifice, praise
- The story of Israel is our story: A pre-cursor to Jesus and him setting us free
- 1st Cup: Slavery
  - Affliction of ancestors in the past
  - Is there something you are currently in bondage to? Do you need to experience freedom?
- 2nd Cup: Plagues
  - They didn't drink from this cup
  - They would recite the plagues
- 3rd Cup: Sacrifice (Elijah's/messiah's cup)
  - Not only would they look back but they would dream about the coming Messiah
  - For 1,400 years they would look back and also forward
  - It wasn't random...Jesus knew the story and the cup of sacrifice
  - Jesus was saying "I am the passover lamb"...saying his blood was what would save people from the bondage of sin
- Every time we come to the communion table we are joining with a 3000 year old tradition and remembering the story of God's redemption
- Passover was a festival and a celebration in unity
  - We should come anticipating God's people in unity and community
  - Celebrating together Jesus' blood shed for us
- 4th Cup: Praise (they sang a hymn after taking communion)

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

1. What can you do this Holy Week to engage in the wonder of the Gospel?
2. How have you struggled in being complacent in your walk with God? What has he taught you about staying engaged?
3. What does communion mean to you? How have you experienced God's presence through this tradition?
4. If you are comfortable sharing, are there any areas of your life that you are in bondage? Where do you need to experience freedom?
5. How is God calling you to deepen your experience of communion?
6. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or sermon?

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

Mon: Isaiah 42:1-9 Tues: Psalm 71:1-14 Wed: Philippians 2:5-11 Thurs: Mark 14 Fri: Mark 15

Songs from the weekend: [Lion and the Lamb - *Leeland*] - [Made A Way- *Travis Greene*] - [Living Hope - *Phil Wickham*] - [Reckless Love - *Cory Asbury*]