

SERMON NOTES

Sunday 12 March

sunnysidechurch

The Greatest Story Ever Told: Journey to Freedom

Bible passages: Exodus 13.17-22; Mark 12.28-34

Introduction

- Freedom one of big ideas of our culture
- Powers much of modern life for good and ill
- God's offer of freedom more needed than ever

Journey to freedom

- God led people out of slavery in Egypt
- God led his people to freedom lived as a community centred on him
- Law (summarised by Jesus) showed them how to live in freedom by recognising dependence on God and others

Enslaved by sin

- Romans 7.7-25 – Paul explains the problem we all have as sin turns us inwards, away from God and one another
- Free from sin, death and fear because of what Jesus did for us on the cross
- Free to live life in all its fulness

Conclusion

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. (Galatians 5.1)

Some questions for discussion

1. In what ways do you see freedom as a big idea in our culture? What good and negative effects can you see?
2. Read Exodus 13.17-22. What do you notice about God's care for his people?
3. Read Mark 12.28-34. Why does Jesus summarise the Law in this way? (look at the 10 Commandments in Exodus 20 if you need some ideas)?
4. I spoke about the importance of freedom *to* as well as freedom *from*. How does the Law help give us a purpose for our freedom?
5. Read Romans 7.7-25. Do you relate to Paul's predicament?
6. In what ways can you see God's story of the journey to freedom in your story?
7. What is God asking you to do as a result of what he has said to you through these passages? It might be something to pray about, something to think more about, something he wants you to talk to someone about or something he wants you to do. Make a note of it so you don't forget!

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. (Galatians 5.1)

Why not spend some time thanking God for the freedom you have in Christ and asking him to help you tell your story of Jesus to someone this week?

Revd Rebecca Fardell