

Freedom is Knowing Security (Exodus 12:1-13, 29-34)

Video 2

Passover tells us something profound about freedom.

Let's begin with a fact that's easy to overlook. On Passover night, *all* households – both Israelite and Egyptian – faced death.

This tells us something important. God's judgement wasn't simply against Pharaoh or the Egyptians. Pharaoh had acted as though he was god and owner. But, clearly, so had the Israelites. They had also rejected God's ownership rights. That's why they too faced death, unless they sheltered under the blood of the lamb.

Think about what this says. It says that the Israelites deserved God's judgement as much as the Egyptians. If the Israelites were simply innocent victims, they would have had no judgement to fear. They painted blood on their doorposts because they too were guilty. They are throwing themselves on God's mercy.

And God offered mercy as a substitute died in their place. A lamb.

Yet, the lamb tells us that there is more to come.

Who, after all, thinks that a lamb is a fair substitute for a human?

And, as the Bible's story continues, our hunch is confirmed. The lamb was a pointer. The lamb embodied a promise of a true substitute. Because there was an even greater act of freedom to come.

Passover was celebrated annually by the Jews. Until, one year, more than a millennium later, John the Baptist sees Jesus. He cries out, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."

John was the first person to associate Passover with Jesus.

But the association didn't end there.

It's no coincidence that Jesus died on Passover weekend. He died at the very same time lambs were being slaughtered to commemorate the original Passover.

It all shows: Jesus is our Passover lamb. Jesus is our willing substitute. Whatever our nationality – Egyptian, Israeli, British or something else – we all deserve to die. We too have acted as though we are God and owner of our lives. Yet Jesus dies in our place. And, if we are trusting him, it's like his blood is painted over our lives.

And this is where freedom starts. Freedom is knowing security.

Yes, God will come in judgement. He holds us accountable for how we have lived. But if we are trusting Jesus, God will pass over us. We are safe under the blood of the Lamb.

You have freedom to face your past. Because of the blood of the Lamb, your failure can't define you.

And you have freedom as you face your future. Because of the blood of the Lamb, you can face death and God's judgement with humble confidence.

And, when we put it all together, we can know freedom in our present lives too. Because of the blood of the Lamb, we can live with thankfulness. God gave us his Son, Jesus.

And so, freedom is understanding that we are known to our very core, in our good and our ugliness. But that we are secure in the love of God.