

### *Out of the House of Slavery*

“Pastor, can we do another Seder dinner on Maundy Thursday, like we did a few years ago?” That was the question posed to me this fall. I agreed (as long as I didn’t have to do the cooking), and then I got to thinking: what Lenten series could I preach that would contribute to this ‘Seder experience’ (and vice versa).

Maybe I should explain. Jews celebrate Passover each Spring. (This year, Passover will begin on April 15<sup>th</sup>, the day we mark Good Friday.) A big part of their celebration is the Passover dinner, which has its own liturgy, a script that they follow to recite and remember what God did for His people long ago.

We Christians don’t normally celebrate Passover, especially since Jesus used the Passover dinner as a vehicle and opportunity to give us the Lord’s Supper. Passover is part of the Old Testament that has been completed in Jesus. We don’t really need it anymore.

But we can learn from Passover, for the Old Testament is part of our heritage as Christians. We are children of Adam, and Noah, and Abraham, sharing the same faith in the Savior, the Messiah, Jesus Christ. God’s activities in the Old Testament are, therefore, part of our history, too. By learning about those acts of God, we learn more about our God and more about what He has done for us in Jesus Christ.

A Christian Passover Seder is a modern, explanatory version of the Passover supper celebrated by Jesus and His disciples on the night before His crucifixion. In the course of the meal, our liturgy focuses on the Old Testament, but it also points to Jesus, who fulfilled the promises God made to His ancient people—and to us! (After the meal, we’ll then have a service of Holy Communion to ‘complete’ our Maundy Thursday celebrations.)

So in our Midweek services this Lent, we’re going to look back at the events leading up to the very first Passover. “Out of the House of Slavery” will review and explore the first fifteen chapters of the Book of Exodus. We’ll examine God’s great deliverance of His people from slavery in Egypt, as recorded in the Old Testament. We’ll also see how those events also pointed to Jesus Christ as our deliverer from our slavery to sin.

I invite you to join us in the study of this great act of God recorded in the Old Testament and its fulfillment in the New Testament. Read the first fifteen chapters of Exodus. Join us for these special midweek services, and watch for more details regarding the Seder meal.

Please set this time aside and join us in these special preparations for the great Holy Days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and of course, Easter Sunday! Invite your friends and neighbors, as all are welcome!

Please note: our Wednesday services will be at 6:30pm (not 7pm, as previously announced).