

SERMON NOTES: January 17, 2016

BE ONE | MAKE ONE: WHY BOTHER?

Exodus 19:1-9, "A Peculiar People"

QUESTION: How does God's purpose and plan promise apply to believers today?

Exodus 19:1–9 — **1** In the third month after the Israelites left Egypt—on the very day—they came to the Desert of Sinai. **2** After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain. **3** Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, "This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: **4** 'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. **5**

Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, **6** you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites." **7** So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the LORD had commanded him to speak. **8** The people all responded together, "We will do everything the LORD has said." So Moses brought their answer back to the LORD. **9** The LORD said to Moses, "I am going to come to you in a dense cloud, so that the people will hear me speaking with you and will always put their trust in you." Then Moses told the LORD what the people had said.

GOD'S PURPOSE AND PLAN IN THE PAST

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

GOD'S PURPOSE AND PLAN IN THE PRESENT

1 Peter 2:4–12 — 4 As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him— 5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For in Scripture it says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” 7 Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone,” 8 and, “A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for. 9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, **that** you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 11 Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. 12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

1. God's people are to be _____
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____

2. God's people are to be His _____

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION: January 17, 2016

BE ONE I MAKE ONE: WHY BOTHER?

Exodus 19:1-9, "A Peculiar People"

OPENING

Read the following quote and allow it to guide your discussions in the following ways: First, meditate upon the biblical descriptions God uses to describe His people; second, reflect on the impact the Church is having on the world.

GOING DEEPER

Why is it that we are so critical of the church? Surely we do not need to pretend, like a little girl coming home from class and teaching her own "make-believe" class in the quiet of her bedroom, that we have all the right credentials, skills, and knowledge that are required to go on. Nor do we need to pretend that we are dressed in holiness, righteousness, justice, and mercy. It is entirely proper for the church to turn inward to denounce its sins and shortcomings; it is proper for the theologians of the church to turn against the intellectual depravity of the church; and it is expected that prophets and preachers will point to the problems in our world. But the issue is: How often do we resonate with this theme, and how do we criticize when we do? The issue becomes even more complex when we factor in the inherent beauty of the church as the bride of Christ, as the community of grace, and as the channel through which God has chosen to express his grace in our world. When we understand the nature of the church as Peter does here in such a profound manner, then, and only then, are we licensed to proceed into critique and battle. ¹

CHALLENGE

What are some steps you can take to publicly express God's call on your life?

¹ McKnight, Scot. "Bridging Contexts" In *The NIV Application Commentary: 1 Peter*. By Scot McKnight, 111. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, © 1996.