

Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion

Date : 4 October 2020

Sermon Title : Founder of Salvation

Speaker : Rev Peter Koh

Text : Hebrews 2:9-18

INTRODUCTION

Jesus is our Founder of Salvation who delivered us from darkness to light by doing the following:

1. Restore our Family's Status (vv.9-13)
2. Render our Foe Powerless (v.14)
3. Remove our Fears (vv.15-18)

1. Restore our Family's Status (Heb 2:9-13)

Jesus is not ashamed to call us brothers and sisters. He came to bring us back into His divine family and has made this possible by:

- lowering His status to our human level
- identifying with humankind by coming clothed in human flesh
- qualifying as fit to take our sins upon himself at the cross

To salvage us, we need the perfect man without sin to go to the cross to pay the penalty for all mankind. Jesus is the only one, the Son of God, who is able to do that. He intentionally clothed Himself in human flesh, came to earth as a little baby and went through growing up years like any other human being. He faced temptations just like us. He was tempted in His possessions, in His performance and popularity (the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life). He was tempted to the extreme but did not compromise or sin. Jesus was thus qualified to pay the price of our sin.

- justifying us to come into His holy presence

Adam was created perfect but committed sin. In sinning, he sold his right of dominion over animals/livestock and vegetation to the devil. From then on, mankind came under the devil's hand. On our own, we are not qualified to pay the price of sin. We have sinned against God and don't measure up to the price tag of sin. The wages of sin is death. Jesus paid the price of our sin so that we can be accepted into His household. He calls us brothers and sisters and introduces us without shame.

For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7

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We are saved at a Great Cost – Jesus could have remained in heaven and let us die a tragic death. Because of His love, He willingly took on the role of a human being, lowering Himself to a status below angels. He was willing to identify with mankind and went for baptism by John the Baptist to identify with us. He went through temptation so He could understand what we go through. He has justified us so that we can come, clothed in His righteousness, into the presence of God the Father. He has restored our family status, a relationship where we can call God “Abba”.

2. Render our foe powerless (Heb 2:14)

Jesus' blood shed broke the power of death (devil). Death is the penalty for sin. There is no way to escape from this except through Jesus.

- Jesus died, was buried for 3 days and was resurrected. This indicates Jesus has power over death. He was able to raise Himself to life. Hence He is able to raise us from the dead as well. He has broken the power Satan has over us so that we can live in eternity with Him. Jesus has rendered our foe powerless and given us authority to live our lives to the fullest.

We are saved from a Great Penalty – because of what Jesus has done on the cross. His blood washes us and makes us whole again.

3. Remove our fears (Heb 2:15-18)

- Jesus freed us from bondage to sin and fear of death
- He paid with His blood - the price for our freedom from bondage

Jesus allows us to lead a full life. (John 10:10) All we need to do is to come to Him, confess and repent. He is faithful and just to forgive us:

- Forgiveness is a powerful thing. When we forgive, we are able to live our life to the fullest. Lack of forgiveness holds us in bondage to guilt and shame. If we sin against a spouse, a boss or friend but do not seek forgiveness, our relationship is torn. We feel guilty that we have done something grievous and we will not be able to lift our heads high because of embarrassment and shame.
- When we forgive just as the Lord has forgiven us, we are set free because we know His blood has cleansed us. We are thus better able to relate to others. Forgiveness frees us from the bondage and penalty of sin which is death. When we confess our sins, God has already forgiven us and He clothes us in His righteousness. If we do not confess and repent, we regard death with terror. Conversely, if we repent and are forgiven, we

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see death as the gateway to heaven. After death comes eternal life. After death, we enter into glory.

We are saved by a Great Saviour – We are saved by Jesus, our Great Saviour, the Founder of our Salvation. Jesus understands our struggles and what we are going through. He came in the flesh to experience what we are experiencing. Jesus was tempted in the desert for 40 days and was tested beyond any one of us. It was difficult but Jesus overcame. He is able to stand in the gap for us as our Great High Priest. He is merciful because He has gone through it and came out victorious.

CONCLUSION

Let us come before God to embrace Him for what He has done for us. He has made it possible for us to “Restore our Family’s Status”, “Render our foe powerless” and “Remove our fears” because He died on the cross to free us from fear and bondage. He has defeated our enemy and restored us to a right relationship with our Heavenly Father, our Maker. He has saved us at a high cost. He has saved us from the penalty of death. He has raised us to be with Him when we die. We no longer need to live a life of misery and pain but we can live a life that is full of abundance and the riches of God. God wants to bless and lift us up. (John 10:10) May we turn to Jesus, the Founder of our Salvation, to experience our new identity as children of God with freedom from the bondage of sin and fear of death.

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As a group, spend some time to share your success and struggle in fulfilling what you/your group had committed to do at the previous meeting.

A. Review Sermon Content

Purpose: Reflect on one key takeaway.

Appoint someone to read Hebrews 2:9-18 twice, slowly.

1. At the end of the reading, the reader will say, 'This is the Word of the Lord.'

All to respond, "Thanks be to God." Our response reminds us that this is the Word of the Lord. Just as God had spoken to His people in the past, He is still speaking to us even today, right now."

- a.
 - (i) As God's word was read, which verse speaks to you the most?
 - (ii) What is the key takeaway for you from the sermon "Founder of Salvation"?

- b. How will you align the way you live to your key takeaway?

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B. Relate Sermon Content

Purpose: Relate with the Truth and Resolve for Transformation.

- 2a. What does “Jesus came at a great cost to restore your ‘family status’ as a child of God” tell you about:
- (i) Jesus’ love for you?
 - (ii) the way God wants you to live your life?
- 2b. Death is the penalty of sin. How does knowing that Jesus died to free you from your death penalty impact how you should treat:
- (i) Him?
 - (ii) other sinners?
 - (iii) others who sin against you?
- 3a. Jesus came to break the power of Satan over us so we can live in eternity with Him.
- (i) Are you enjoying your life, living with Christ today?
 - (ii) Are you looking forward to living with Him in eternity?
- 3b. What is one area in your life that you are struggling with (eg. Identity crisis, fears, temptations, unforgiveness etc), which hinders you from experiencing the abundant life Jesus has promised those who belong to Him in John 10:10?
- 3c. How can your group members encourage or help you achieve 3b above, for the next week(s) until your next meeting?

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C. Testimonies and Prayer

Purpose: Give glory to God and seek Him.

4. Share your personal testimony of how God has helped you live out your identity as a child of God.

OR

Give thanks to God for how He has turned around your life of misery, fear and pain into an abundant life in Christ, free from bondage to fear.

5. Commit all that have been shared in 3a,3b and 3c to God, asking Jesus, the Founder of Salvation, to give you strength to persevere and follow through what you and your group have committed to do in the following week(s) until your next meeting.

With your accountability partner(s), pray for the Holy Spirit to empower you to trust in your restored identity as a child of God and live victoriously against your foe who has been rendered powerless, to enjoy the abundant life in Christ, free from bondage to sin and fear.

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