

Coach House Church BEACONS

BE AN EXAMPLE

21ST SEPTEMBER 2020

We live in a world where most people are lost. They don't know where they're going or what they are doing. They don't know why they were made. Now this might be true for some of us in a way. We might feel like this sometimes. We might feel that we're not sure why we're here. I can't tell you personally exactly why God put you on this earth and we might not find out until we get to heaven, but there are some things that God put us all here to do.

In the old testament God picked out a people, a treasured possession on this earth. This was the nation of Israel, a people chosen for Abraham's faithfulness. This people had many ups and downs but God was their God.

One reason God chose Israel was to show His power. There were many times in Israel's history that they were against an enemy that they alone as a tiny nation could not face, but with God's help they defeated their enemies.

Psalms 68:19-20 says "Praise be to the Lord, to God our Saviour, who daily bears our burdens. Our God is a God who saves; from the Sovereign Lord comes escape from death."

God saved His people so many times and in so many majestic and wonderful ways and Israel knew who their saviour was. There are many many verses in Psalms that say that very thing or speak in faith that God will save them.

Praise be to the Lord, to God our Saviour

There are so many stories in the old testament of when Israel or individuals relied on God and He saved them wonderfully. Stories like the story of David and Goliath,

or the story of Daniel in the lion's den, or Esther, or Shadrach Meshach and Abednego, or Jericho, or Gideon or many others. The list goes on and on.

I would very much recommend that you go and look at some of the stories, because the way God has saved His people is fantastic and shows His power in an incredible way.

He has also chosen us to show His power. He wants us to pray for miracles and life changing events. We might only see one life changing miracle in our lifetime, but the story will be a story that shows God's power and might. This story could speak to somebody else and help their faith and bring God glory.

God also wanted to show His forgiving nature. The Israelites messed up many many times and the nations surrounding Israel must have known it. They would have seen how Israel kept wandering off and worshipping other gods. But every time Israel turned around and asked for forgiveness, God gave it to them.

Hosea 14:1-4 says " Israel, return to the Lord your God.

You have stumbled because of your sins.

Return to the Lord, and say these things to him:

"Forgive all our sins, and kindly receive us.

Then we'll praise you with our lips.....

We will never again say

that the things our hands have made are our gods.

You love orphans."

The Lord says, "I will cure them of their unfaithfulness.

I will love them freely.

I will no longer be angry with them."

His church also shows the world God's forgiving nature. We are broken people and none of us are perfect and yet God's grace covers us. As long as we turn from our sin God will forgive us, no matter what we have done.

God chose Israel to be his people to show the world how life was meant to be. It was to show everyone how He originally designed life to be, a life with Him.

Exodus 19:5-6 says "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, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."

God wanted the people of Israel to be a Holy people, a people set apart for Him. He wanted them to be a people that lived the life that He had designed, the life that they were made for and the life that we are made for.

This is His design for the church. He has put us here, in a community, to show the world how God has designed us, how relationships with others are meant to be, how life is meant to be lived. We are meant to show the world what it means to love each other and live in relationship with the one who made us. We are meant to show the world what it means to know why we're here and who we're here for. We are meant to show the world what it means to live free of sin. We are meant to show God's power by showing that our enemies, sin and death, have been utterly defeated.

Let's live a life full of purpose and bring others into this fully fulfilled life.

You see sin lies to us. It looks so good and enticing. It looks like a big juicy piece of fruit that will make things better and have the most gorgeous taste. It might taste good at first but sin will always leave us empty and hungry. We should be careful with what we do. Salt and sugar look the same but if you mistake one for the other there are horrible consequences. Sin will always have negative consequences, even if we think we've got away with it.

We need to show people what it's like to live free from the shackles of sin. This doesn't mean fake it at being happy or pretend we are perfect. We should live genuine lives but we should be genuinely trying to live free of sin. We aren't there yet and we won't be able to do this perfectly but fortunately we aren't trying to do this alone. God has given us His Holy Spirit and our Christian brothers and sisters to help us in the fight. He has given us these tools to help us live out His plan in our lives and help us be all that we can. Like I said, we will make mistakes, but we need to keep trying to live as well as we can. Every time we make a mistake we should pick ourselves up and try again. Whenever we see a Christian brother or sister fall, we should be there to help pick themselves up and start fresh.

People will be changed by this example. We are influenced by others around us and others will be influenced by us. The genuine love we show will be infectious

and will show that the life that God calls us to is attractive. We will be able to show how it is to love and be loved completely and regardless of what we do.

So let's live this out. Let's show the world what it is to live alongside a powerful God, so powerful that we can live a life free from the shackles of sin, but also free from the fear of the consequences of our sin. Let's live in love and forgive others and help them up when they fall. Let's live a life full of purpose and bring others into this fully fulfilled life.



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