

GOD'S RESCUE MISSION

God's rescue mission is all about you.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ The first book of the Bible, Genesis, quickly introduces us to God and His unique, creative methods. God, as Creator, spoke and things came into being.
- ❖ God looked at His creation and realized He needed someone to have dominion over it (Genesis 2:7).
- ❖ The Lord placed Adam, the man He created, in the midst of the garden and gave him dominion over every living thing. The animals were happy. The trees and the plants were happy. But Adam was not happy?
- ❖ Nothing looked like him. The Lord said, "It is not good that man should be alone" (Gen. 2:18). So He created woman from the rib of man and brought her to Adam who said, "This is now bones of my bones and flesh of my flesh" (Gen. 2:23). Now Adam was happy.
- ❖ Everything Adam and Eve needed, God provided. They had a covenanted relationship with God and God talked with Adam daily. But Adam and Eve had an enemy in that garden, and that enemy caused them to disobey the Word of the Lord and sin against God.
- ❖ Because of sin, there was a breach in the relationship between man and God. God could have destroyed man and started over again, but no—He was the covenant-keeping God. Instead, He put a plan in place to redeem man from the stronghold of sin. "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel" (Gen. 3:15).
- ❖ God warned the enemy that his worst nightmare would come through the woman he had deceived. And though Eve bore a son in Genesis 4, this was not the "seed" that God mentioned in the garden.
- ❖ God made a covenant with Noah. The fact that God spoke to Noah indicated God's grace to mankind. God saved Noah and his family from destruction when He decided to destroy the earth that became filled with sin. However, Noah was not the seed God promised.
- ❖ God raised up Abraham, called him from his father's house and covenanted with him. God told Abraham that He would bless him, make him a great nation, and make his name great and that he would be a blessing (Gen. 12:2). All of God's promises to Abraham were fulfilled—but Abraham was not the promised seed.
- ❖ Then came Isaac, the promised son to Abraham and Sarah (Gen. 17:16). But he was not the promised seed.
- ❖ And it was to Jacob, Isaac's son, that God said, "...In you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Gen. 28:14). But Jacob was only a part of the plan and not the promised seed.
- ❖ God chose deliverers (e.g. Moses, Joshua) to save the Israelites, but they were not the promised seed.
- ❖ God raised up kings—Saul, David, Solomon—yet these kings were not the King of kings, the promised seed.
- ❖ Nor were the priests, who offered up blood offerings. No one was able to was able to save mankind.

KEY SCRIPTURE: Luke 4:16-21

- ❖ But God had a plan to redeem mankind.
- ❖ Our redemption came through God's perfect planning...and time. "But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman" (Galatians 4:4).
- ❖ The first advance in God's rescue mission was the birth of Jesus Christ (Luke 1:35, 38).
- ❖ After 30 years of earthly life, the Bible says that Jesus was baptized and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, being tempted for 40 days by the devil. As weak and hungry as Jesus was after a 40-day fast, He was able to say to each temptation the devil threw at Him, "It is written...." (See Luke 4.)
- ❖ Jesus left the wilderness ready for His mission. He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath and made a declaration: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me..." (Luke 4:18-19).
- ❖ Whatever happened in the wilderness caused Jesus to come out with a mindset that was missioned-focused. He had been anointed to:
 - Preach the gospel to the poor (Matt. 11:4-5)
 - Heal the brokenhearted (Matt. 11:28)
 - Proclaim liberty to the captives (Luke 13:10-13; Daniel 6:26-27)
 - Give sight to the blind (Mark 10:46-52)
 - Set at liberty those who are oppressed (eg. Lepers, the Samaritan woman, Rahab)
 - Proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord (John 3:16, 7:37, 10:10; Matt. 11:28)
- ❖ Everywhere Jesus went He was on a rescue mission. He was the only begotten of the Father (Jn 1:14), the only one who could save people from their sins.
- ❖ If God could rescue Daniel from the lions' den, if He could take a murderer like Saul and make him into the Apostle Paul, surely He can deliver you, free you, *rescue* you. *You* are God's mission. Jesus has come to rescue you.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. The greatest rescue mission undertaken was for the redemption of mankind. Looking at the various points in Jesus' mission statement (Luke 4:18-19), are you able to say you are "mission ready"? What can one do in order to be ready?
2. The lesson mentions different scriptural examples of "rescuers." Choose one or two rescuers and discuss their mission and how they were enlisted for that particular cause. What lesson can be learned from their experience?

Prayer Time

Lord, thank You for taking on the ultimate rescue mission: the redemption of *my* soul!

WEEK OF SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2019

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🧠 (Think about)

👉 (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
 CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
 Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

Start-up: Have you ever had to call a roadside assistance service like CAA because you were in need of being rescued? What were the circumstances?