

# THE GOD OF EXODUS AND EASTER

Luke 4 & 19

Calvary Church of Pacific Palisades  
April 17, 2011 ♦ Palm Sunday Worship

October 12, 2010 was a day of deliverance. 33 miners had been trapped for 68 days in a collapsed mine in CHILE ... ½ mile beneath the surface. The world watching. Needed rescue. Hanging on to life (persevering), waiting to be delivered from darkness.

Search & Rescuers from all over the world working around the clock. Would not give up. When rescue worker climbed into capsule, closed the mesh door and descended into darkness, world waited.

When the capsule was hoisted back to the surface, the first of 33 climbed out of the shuttle, delivered from darkness, into the arms of a cheering crowd. Rescued, he was given his life back.

NYTimes ... The perseverance of the miners, trapped so far underground in a lightless, dank space, transfixed the globe with a universal story of human struggle and the enormously complex operation to rescue them. It involved untold millions of dollars, specialists from [NASA](#) and drilling experts from a dozen or so countries. Some at the mine compared the rescue effort to the [Apollo 13 space mission](#), for the emotional tension it caused and the expectation of a collective sigh of relief at the end. "We hope that with the help of God this epic will end in a happy way," Chilean President Piñera said before the rescue began.

We focus today on the same hope ... we are in an Epic struggle for life, trapped. In need of deliverance. Our God is on a mission to seek and save ... search and rescue mission. He will not give up, go to great lengths, untold expense to free so we can become like Him and live to worship Him.

*Eugene H. Peterson* "We don't live in a mechanistic world ruled by necessity; we don't live in a random world ruled by chance; we live in a world ruled by the God of Exodus and Easter. He will do things in us that neither we nor our friends would have ever supposed possible."

Please open your Bibles. Exodus 2. **Page 41.**

Make our way from Exodus in Egypt, to Nazareth (bus town in hills of Palestine), and finally to the streets of Jerusalem (cheering crowds) during Passover week.

Hebrews in Egypt were in an unbearable situation, miserable, taking it's toll. Crying out to God.

**Read Exodus 2:23-25, 3:7-9**

**Our God is a rescuing God.** Not a God who ignores, deaf ... who leaves us on our own.

The God of Exodus ... 430 years of waiting "God heard their cries and sent a deliverer."

Loved them so much He sent Moses as His representative to rescue. Miraculous deliverance,

**If you feel trapped and need to be rescued cry out to God. Rescuing God. Hears and answers.**

Fast-forward 1400 years to Jesus home-town, Nazareth.

**Gospel of Luke. Chapter 4 Page 727.** Once again, God's people crying out, life is miserable, persecuted, scattered, longing to receive the promise God had made to them.

Enters Synagogue makes bold announcement. Announces that he is on a search and rescue mission.

**Read Luke 4: vv. 14-21**

**The revolution begins today. I am the anointed one. Rescuer, deliverer.**

**Our God is a rescuing God, who delivers us, ... from our sins and from our selves.**

They refused Jesus, had seen him grow up. Too familiar.

The problem was not with Him, it was with them. Local boys never have home-field advantage. Cites Elijah who went outside Israel to minister, and Elisha who miraculously healed Syrian.

So they took him to a precipice and were planning to throw him off to his death, when he disappeared.

Like the OLDER BROTHER in Story of the LOST SON ... PRODIGAL. LUKE 15. Two sons ... Both were lost.

One lost to sin and rebellion, the other lost to pride and self-righteousness.

III. YOUNGER SON LIKE Beth ... grew up in the church. Parents religious, but all she saw was hypocrisy.

*Rejected faith. If following Jesus was like that, she wanted nothing to do.*

*Not a life of debauchery, just one without God. Thought she was better off on her own, until 1 day, (married with 3 kids) she met a man. At first a friendship, then a whole lot more. Heart hadn't felt that alive in a long time.*

*She knew it was wrong (destroying her family). Longer she stayed in it the harder it was to get out.*

*Until one day she woke up in desperation. She felt trapped, and didn't know how to get out. In need of rescue. Only one place to go, she returned to God. God heard her cry and received her with open arms.*

**Our God is a rescuing God, who delivers us, ... from all our sin ... CLEANSSES US**

Not everyone like Beth, in the grip of destructive lifestyle.

*Ill. OLDER Brother named Jim, just as trapped, in need of deliverance. Had a different response to his parents faith, Xian school, Navigator summer camps, Bible expert. Loved to debate the deeper theological truths like "did Adam have a navel" or "how many angels can sit on the head of a pin. Prided himself in being the theological watchdog, pointing out theological error. One of my friends would call him a "religious spirit". Looked on others with disdain, contempt. Looking down, he felt holier-than-thou. Brother named Jim, just as trapped, in need of deliverance ... delivered from his pride, blinded to truth.*

**Our God is a rescuing God, who delivers us, ... from ourselves ... HUMBLE US**

Whether the younger brother or the older brother in the story ... whether trapped by sin, or blinded by self-righteousness, God perseveres. Never gives up. Bring us out of darkness. Welcome home.

Which brings us to Palm Sunday ... Jesus TRIUMPHAL ENTRY. Egypt, Nazareth now Jerusalem.

On Palm Sunday Jesus enters Jerusalem. And the people cheer. They welcome Him, they had seen His miracles (just as the Egyptians and Hebrews had seen Moses miracles).

**Luke 19:28-40 page 743.**

**Our God is a rescuing God, who delivers us, and frees us to worship Him.**

**LIVE FOR HIM ... 2 Corinthians 5:15 (NIV84) <sup>15</sup> And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.**

GIVE PRAISE TO HIS NAME (stones cry out) ... Heaven's are telling the glory of God.

**God heard our cries and sent Jesus to deliver us ... cries for help turn to shouts of praise.**

Jesus was sent by God to seek and to save that which was lost. Search and rescue. Darkness to light.

Conclusion:

If you are in need of rescue? Cry out to God. Guaranteed that he will hear. And act.

Cry out to Him, embrace who He is and what He came to do, welcome Him and invite Him to transform your life so that you can be like Him.

Not the God of chance, not deaf or disinterested or asleep ... the God of Exodus and Easter.