

We are God's treasure - Exodus 19:3-6

The text for meditation for this morning is from Exodus 19:3-6, which was read before. Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father, and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

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Dear friends in Christ:

We all know that there are plenty of scandals that affect the image of Christianity. Yes, Christians people from different denominations have been caught in the act of flaunting their power for sex, money or other sinful acts. In the history of mankind scandal among the very religious is nothing new and many people outside the church have taken all these scandals of Christians as a special opportunity to ridicule the church, pointing out that so often Christians think they are better than others, but really, they are just as bad, if not worse. No doubt Christians and non-Christians are sinful, but the Bible says that the believer who sin and sincerely repent has forgiveness of their sins through Jesus Christ. Un-believers does not understand this because they lack of the Spirit of God. Now, they do not have the Spirit of God because their harness of their hearts that they do not want to believe.

The Bible does not teach God randomly forgives. God does not suddenly change His mind about the seriousness of our sin. All our sins are serious sins and are all deserving of eternal death. God forgives our sins only because of what Jesus Christ did on the bloody cross for you; only because the price for our sins and our failures has been paid. And we can be people who are called to go out with the certainty of the love of Jesus even in the midst of our own sin and struggles. Christians are not people who are better than others, they are just people who are better off. And we are better off because we are special - not that we are special in ourselves, but we are special to God, precious to Him and loved by Him.

Jesus once told His disciples "**Even the very hairs of your head are numbered.**" (Luke 12:7) Can you imagine that - that we are so special to Him, that God keeps track of the very hairs on our head? That definitely tells us something about God. It tells us just how much He cares about us, for who else cares about us so much that they would be concerned with something so seemingly unimportant as the number of hairs we have. That kind of love and concern tells us that we are special to God and precious to Him.

I think there are many times in our lives, especially when we feel unloved or

unimportant, that we need to know that we are special to Him. That is the assurance that we have in our text this morning. No matter what the rest of the world may think of us, no matter how we might feel about ourselves, we can always remember that we are something special to our loving God, who cares about us. We all hunger and thirst for the deep and abiding satisfaction of knowing that we are loved. And one of the things that love does for us is provide us with a feeling of self-worth. There is even a song written by Dean Martin, which says, “you are nobody till somebody loves you, you are nobody till somebody cares.”

But God tells us more than that. Not only does He tell us that He loves us, but He also tells us, and shows us, that we are special to Him. That was what Moses was to tell the people of Israel. Our text says **“While Moses went up to God. The LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: ⁴‘You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. ⁵Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples,”** God wanted His people to know that they were special to Him, that they were His treasured possession. And the people of Israel had proof that they were special to God. He was the one who had delivered them from slavery in Egypt. He was the one who had provided them with food, who had cared for them day after day.

He did all this - not because they were better than anyone else, not because they were a greater nation than any other nation, but because He loved them. He even tells them **“the earth is mine; ⁶and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”** Out of all that He has created, out of all the mighty Empires He could choose as something special for Himself, God chose the nation of Israel to be His treasured possession.

Friends, we all have something that is special to us; for example: a painting, a ring, a watch that has been passed down as a family heirloom, a special gift from our parents, spouse, children, or even a friend; something that we are especially proud of. What happens? Well, we treasure that object, and it is put in a special place and treated with special care just because it is special to us. That is exactly how God feels about the people He calls as His own. He promised them “I will be your God, and You will be My people. I will continue to watch over you and bless you. I will treat you as My greatest treasure. And I will always love you.”

The wonderful thing for us to learn from this text is that God feels exactly the same

way about us. The things He said to the people of Israel He also says to those who are His people through faith in Jesus Christ. He considers us to be His greatest treasure, He considers us something special. And if we should ever doubt that we are special to Him, all we need to do is remember the price God was willing to pay to make us His own. We are so special to Him that God was willing to give His own Son to die on the cross to take away the sin that separates us from Him. Jesus died on that cross to redeem us for God, to buy us back for Him from the sin that was destroying us. And when Jesus rose again from the dead, He declared that God had done what He had planned. He has purchased and won us from sin, death and the power of the devil. He has made us His own, and treasures us as His greatest possession.

When you stop and think about it, it is truly a gift of God's amazing grace that He should treat us as something special, especially in light of the way we so often treat Him. What have we ever done that is worthy of any special treatment from God? The answer should be obvious; we are totally unworthy of His love and kindness. But still He loves us, He cares about us, He considers us something special. And in the saving actions of Christ, He shows us just how special we are to Him. That is a promise we can take with us wherever we go. Even if the whole world should turn against us, even if it seems that no one cares about us, we are still loved by God and special to Him.

It makes a great difference for our lives, to know that we are special to God. But we are more than just special to God. We are also special through God. In Christ, God not only shows us how special we are to Him, but He makes us new people, something uniquely special through Christ. When God told the people of Israel that they were His treasured possession, He also told them **“the earth is mine; ⁶and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”** Peter tells us the same thing **“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.”**

I sometimes think that we forget this aspect of our lives as God's people. At times it seems that, even though we may not be ashamed to be known as the people of God, we are not too proud of it, either. As Christians, we are to be different from the people of this world, for we are something special to God and through God. That does not mean we should consider ourselves better than they are, but we are to be different in the actions of our lives. We are to show the world what it means to us to know that we are special to God and that we are special in Christ. We do that as we serve our God faithfully, living in

obedience to His commands, seeking, with the help of the Holy Spirit to be holy even as our father in heaven is holy. But we are also to live as the special people of God for the benefit of the world. As the holy people of God, we are to be His representatives to the world, serving as His priests. And to be His priests simply means that we are to share with the world the wonderful message of hope and life that our God has given to us in His son, Jesus Christ.

Whether we are at work or on vacation, at home or at church, people should be able to see that we are something special to God. They should be able to tell that there is something special about us because of our relationship to Him. And what they should see is not how wonderful we are, but how wonderful our God is. They should see how His forgiving love has changed our lives for the better. They should be able to see how His comfort and strength make a difference to us when we sin and in the troubled times of life. They should see that in Him we have the hope of a better life, the life that comes when we leave this world to be with the Lord forever.

I think that we, as the people of God, as people who are special to Him, need to be proud of what we are; not boastful, but proud; and just as a person would display a treasured work of art so that others can enjoy its beauty, we should let others see in us the beauty of life as the special treasure of God.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, you may not think that you are special, but you are. When we sin, it is the time that we think more that we are not special to God, but you are special to God, who treats us as His greatest treasure. God sent Jesus Christ to save us from sin and death. Through Jesus Christ your sins are washed away. We are special through God, as we serve Him, through the power of the Holy Spirit, as His priests in this world.

May God enable us to remember just how special we are because we have His love and forgiveness for our lives, and let us live as His special people in all that we do and say. Amen.