

Intro

G'Day Church Family!

So, throughout this month of January - we're doing a series on "SHUN" words in the Bible - that's words in the Bible that end in "TION" - SHUN

Words like: Revelation, Substitution, Salvation, Redemption and so on.

We'll also continue this look at "SHUN" words in January 2020.

You have Bibles in front of you and a sermon outline in your bulletin.

First - let me ask God to speak to our hearts and minds. Let's pray

Our "SHUN" word this week - is Redemp-tion

So, we'd better define what Redemption is:

[PowerPoint 1a-Defintion]

A definition from the Oxford Dictionary:

The action of regaining or gaining possession of something in exchange for payment

An example:

A pawn shop or Cash Converters

You can take something to the shop (like a watch or jewelry) - and get some money for it

But you have the option of buying it back - and regaining possession of it

That's **redeeming** it

[PowerPoint 1b-Redeem]

The word redeem literally means "to buy out." The term was originally used specifically in reference to the purchase of a ***slave's freedom***.

Slaves could be bought of slavery!

Context

And it's the context of slavery which our OT reading today is looking at

Just some background first, though:

[PowerPoint 2-Context]

- God had chosen a people for Himself - they were the Jews or Israelites
- God made certain promises to the OT Patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob - that they were His people - the Israelites
- God promised - that they would become a great nation - they would have their own land - and they would be a blessing to the whole world - even a light to non-Jews - the *Gentiles*
- But here we are in Exodus chapter 5 - it's around about 1400 BC
- God's people are in Egypt - not in their own land anymore - because they'd moved from the region of Canaan to Egypt, in Jacob's time, because of famine
- God's people - the Israelites - are growing in population in Egypt
- And they are greatly disliked to the point that the Egyptians have made the Israelites slaves and put them to work on major building projects
- The Egyptians have taken ownership of God's people
- Is God going to stand by and let someone else own His people?
- Not only will God act - but He even knew this would happen to them

- Back in Gen 15:12-16 - God told Abraham when Abraham was standing in the land God would eventually give him - God told him about this time of slavery:

[PowerPoint 4-Gen 15:12-16]

¹² As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. ¹³ Then the LORD said to him, "Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. ¹⁴ But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. ¹⁵ You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. ¹⁶ In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here...

- Those 400 years are up

[PowerPoint 4-Context continued]

- God acted - He heard the cry of his people for help - and God spoke to Moses from inside a burning bush (in Exodus 3)
- And God sent Moses to tell Pharaoh (King of Egypt) to release the Israelite people from slavery and let them go free
- It's time for God to **redeem** his people - and regain ownership of them
- Moses had gone to Pharaoh and asked him to release the Israelites from slavery - but Pharaoh responded by make their slavery conditions even worse!
- And now the people are cheesed with Moses and his brother Aaron for making matters worse, by going to Pharaoh...

Freedom from Slavery in OT (Exodus 5:22-6:12)

[PowerPoint 5-Exodus 5:22-6:12]

That's where we pick up the story in our OT passage today

[Please turn to Exodus 5:22-6:12 - page 93 (big) and page 62 (small)]

Moses returns to God and says in v22 & 23 - things are even worse now - Pharaoh has made the conditions for the people worse - God you've brought more trouble on the people - you've not rescued them at all.

So, as we hit chapter 6

In v1 - God basically says watch - watch my mighty hand - Pharaoh will let them go

In v2 & 3 - God says I am the Lord - and God points out He has appeared to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the past - but people don't really know what I'm like - but they soon will

In v4 - God also points out He's made a covenant promise to their ancestors to give them the land of Canaan and now is the time to keep that promise

And besides in v5 - God says I have heard the groaning of the Israelites and how they are being enslaved in Egypt

So, God tells Moses in v6 to go back to the people and say "I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. **I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you** with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment."

And in v7 & 8- He says - you will be my people and I your God and then you'll know that I am the Lord God who brought you out from under the yoke of Egyptians. And he reminds them that He will keep the promise He made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob - to give them the new land to possess

When Moses reported this to the people in v9 - they wouldn't believe him
So, in v10-11 God tells Moses to go and tell the Pharaoh to let the Israelites go
But even Moses - in v12 is doubtful - he says - if the people won't listen to me why would Pharaoh?

In our definition of redemption

We said it involved regaining possession - that's what God intended to do with His people

But we said it also involved payment

There's going to be a cost to redeem them

It costs God some of His power - but He can handle that

But -it also costs Pharaoh and Egypt dearly

[PowerPoint 6-Plagues]

Because, in the following chapters - Exodus 7 to 12

God sends 10 plagues (or disasters) to "persuade" Pharaoh to go

The Plagues are: Blood in the Nile; Frogs, Gnats, Flies, Livestock dying, Boils, Hail, Locusts, Darkness and the death of every Firstborn child

Finally, Pharaoh lets them go

God redeems His people

He regains ownership of them - at a great cost to Egypt - but He has bought them back to Himself

(pause)

Freedom from Slavery in NT

What about us today

How does this story of redemption from slavery in the OT - relate to us?

[PowerPoint 7a-All slaves]

Well - all people on earth are slaves too

Not slaves to a wicked ruler like Pharaoh

But slaves to an even worse ruler - we are all - slaves to sin

As we said several times of late

Romans 3:23 tells us

²³ ...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

All people sin

And when we sin - it leads to more sin - it's like a disease that's out of control

[PowerPoint 7b-controls]

Sin controls people - like a Master controls a slave

[PowerPoint 7c-Redeemer]

So, all people on earth need to be redeemed - bought back - and brought back to God -

We need a redeemer to do this - we can't do it ourselves

And remember our definition of redemption said - it's not just a matter of regaining possession - it comes with a **cost**

Remember the last plague in Egypt - the plague of the Firstborn

God sent a plague of death would come on all homes in Egypt

But if the blood of a lamb, without defect, was painted on the doorposts and doorframes of the house - it meant the plague of death passed over that house.

Without that blood of the lamb - there was no freedom from death

With that blood of the lamb there was safety and perseveration

But there was a cost!

The cost was - the Passover lamb's life and blood

That little lamb and its life and blood - point to Jesus

[PowerPoint 8a-Redeemer and Passover Lamb]

They point to Jesus the Perfect Lamb of God - and his life and blood on the shed on cross

That's how Jesus redeems people - He buys people back to God - by taking the thing we are slaves to - away - He takes away our sins by His death on the cross

- and replaces those sins with forgiveness - and so God owns us again - we're

His - if we believe in Jesus

And that belief in Him - means we can claim Jesus' resurrection too - and say

that death doesn't have any effect on us - because like Jesus we can live

forever in Heaven with eternal life - if we believe in His resurrection

The Bible calls this redemptive action from Jesus - Grace -

[PowerPoint 8b-Grace]

God's undeserved favour on us - a free gift to us - at great cost to Him in allowing His Son to die

(pause)

Response (Romans 6:15-23)

[PowerPoint 9a-Response?]

What should our response be today - to Jesus buying us back to God and redeeming us

[PowerPoint 9b-could be?]

Our response could be - well if I believe in Jesus - my sins are forgiven - sweet - I can go on sinning - because Jesus will take care of these sins for me too - it's all good.

[PowerPoint 9c-X]

No! No! No!

And - That's the question Apostle Paul is making in our NT reading

Turn to Romans 6:15-23 - [Page 1752 (big) and Page 1133 (small)]

He says in 6:15

¹⁵ What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means!

Paul's asking - should we keep sinning because God has given us the grace of forgiveness through Jesus - is that the attitude we should have?

Paul's answer in the following verses - is of course not!

That's not true heartfelt repentance!

What Paul goes on to explain

Is what Jesus has done on the cross - has bought us back to God

[PowerPoint 9d-Different slaves]

We were once slaves to sins

Now we are different sort of slaves - we're slaves of God (see v22)

Before we start panicking about being slaves - because we all know that usually slaves are mistreated and not cared for properly

Paul points out this is only an illustration in v19 - and it's the only one he can come up with because of our human limitations

He's comparing our life before having faith in Jesus and our life after having faith in Jesus [PowerPoint 10-Table Before/After]

Comparing our life before & after faith in Jesus	
Before faith in Jesus	After faith in Jesus
Obey Sin Master	<i>Obey God</i>
Slaves to sin	<i>Slaves to obedience & obey from the heart</i>
Our sin = death	<i>Faith = righteousness</i>
No benefits except death	<i>Set free – made holy</i>
Wages of sin are death & separation from God	<i>Faith leads to forgiveness and eternal life with God</i>

When we compare our life before having faith in Jesus and our life after having faith in Jesus

Before faith in Jesus - sin was our master or boss

After our faith in Jesus - righteousness is now our master or boss

It's pretty clear - why would we would not want to continue being a slave to sin - which results in death and permanent separation from God

And it's also pretty clear why we would want to be slaves to God - and be right with Him - and note being right with Him is only possible - as it says in v23 - in Christ Jesus.

And being slaves to God gives us holiness (makes us holy like God) and gives us forgiveness of our sins - and gives us eternal life - and again this is only possible when we have a relationship in and with Jesus

As Christians - God has regained ownership of us and we are now meant to be slaves of God

But it's a different form of slavery

So, let's compare it - so we don't panic about it.

[PowerPoint 11 - Different form of Slavery]

A Different form of Slavery

Before faith in Jesus

Born as slaves of sin

Our will swallowed by sin

Our bondage to sin was so strong it needed fixing

We willingly served sin even though it would destroy us

After faith in Jesus

Born again of Holy Spirit

God's will not our own

Jesus breaks the bond we have with sin

We now willingly choose to serve Jesus not our own selfish needs

Conclusion/Application

To finish up then - we need to apply this idea of being slaves to God to our lives. So, I'd like to finish with a couple of verses from 1 Cor 6:19-20 to help us see how to apply this teaching today. Paul says:

[PowerPoint 12-1 Cor 6:19-20)

⁹Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies.

A temple is a sacred place to God and should be pure and free from any immorality

As Christians our bodies are supposed to be like a temple - with the HS living inside us - which we received by our faith in Jesus - Jesus promised He would send the HS to help, guide, convict and encourage us

Paul says - as Christians - we're not our own now - we're owned by God - hence God's slaves

And that there was a price for this redemption and regaining of ownership - that price was/is Jesus' blood

THEREFORE, Paul says - we should honour God with our bodies

How can we do that?

- In our obedience to God and His Word
- In serving Him and serving others - are there ways we can serve - that we're not currently doing?
- In sharing and showing our faith to others
- In our thoughts, in our words, in our actions - by removing all immoral thoughts, words and deeds from our lives

Why?

Because God loves us

Because God redeemed us through Jesus

Because we need to thank Jesus for redeeming us

And because a way of showing we love Jesus is to obey Him (John 14:15; 23)

Let's pray