

The Promise of God's Deliverance – Part 4

Escape Through Leaving

11/8/23

- Tonight – Opportunity to give a Bible study
- Recently – began a new series – God's Deliverance – 5 Parts
- Title – The Promise of God's Deliverance – Part 4
Escape Through Leaving
- History of these presentations
 - The first time – sermon on 7/25/98
 - In 2009 – I gave a 5-part Bible study series
 - Between 2000 & 2017 – I presented the subject to 30 congregations
 - In 2020 – I gave a 5-part sermon series
- Comment – While the 5 main points are the same, I have changed some of the scriptures on the handout – and the extemporaneous comments are certainly different

1 Cor. 10:13

God is faithful

- Not tempted above what you are able
- Will make a way of escape
- That you may be able to bear it

Part 1 – Escape Through Dramatic Miracle

Part 2 – Escape Through Death

Part 3 – Escape Through Hiding

Part 4 – Escape Through Leaving

Part 5 – Escape Through Coping

- Let's begin by noticing characteristics of mature people
 - Planning
 - Making commitments
 - Displaying patience
 - Not a quitting lifestyle
- Yet, the Bible shows – there are times to leave bad situations
- Foundational scripture – let us look at a verse about dealing with the subject of slavery

1 Cor. 7:21

called while a slave? – if you can be made free, use it

James Moffatt translation – “Everyone must remain in the condition of life where he was called. You were a slave when you were called? Never mind. Of course, if you do find it possible to get free, you had better avail yourself of the opportunity.”

- Consider 4 situations of leaving – listed here in reverse order from previous presentations about this subject – listed in order of hardest to easiest – to not shortchange the hardest

1. Leaving a marriage	3. Leaving a job
2. Leaving a country	4. Leaving a church organization

1. Leaving a marriage

Marriage commitment is special – this situation is more serious than the next 3 examples

Reminder – please, do NOT be quick to leave a marriage

Reminder – please, be kind to those in bad situations – remember that there are Biblical reasons

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including Matthew 5:31-32; Matthew 19:3-9; and 1 Corinthians 7:6-15

- It is not necessarily a sin to leave a marriage

Jer. 3:8

I put her away and gave her a certificate of divorce

Mal. 2:16

the Lord God of Israel says that He hates divorce

1 Cor. 7:6-15

Paul's 3 categories

10-11

divorce is not necessarily forbidden – remarriage is the issue

2. Leaving a country

Is there ever a time to leave a country?

Instead of grumbling, how can you improve your situation?

Gen. 12:1-5

God instructed Abram – “get out of your country”

Gen. 13:12

Abram and Lot separated

Gen. 19:15-22

angels urged Lot to leave – “hurry, escape”

Exod. 12:33-39

urgent – to get them out in haste

Matt. 2:12-15

Joseph & family temporarily left their country

Matt. 24:15-18

abomination of desolation – those in Judea, “flee”

3. Leaving a job

Is there ever a time to leave a job?

Instead of grumbling, how can you improve your situation?

For the record – my personal world-view is living 70 years in a Constitutional Republic (U.S.)

Consider good advice – continue developing various practical skills can help a person find a job

Consider good advice – don't rush out of a job, until you have a new job lined up

4. Leaving a church organization

Is there ever a time for a person to leave a church organization?

Instead of grumbling, how can you improve your situation?

Remember – some church organizations practice control techniques – equating exclusive association with their physical group as membership in the Spiritual Body of Christ

Leaving a church organization is NOT the same as leaving the Living God

Leaving a church organization is NOT the same as leaving the Spiritual Body of Christ

2 Thes. 3:6

withdraw from disorderly people – (context is apparent leaders)

1 Tim. 6:3-5

withdraw from an unhealthy people – (context is apparent leaders)

Acts 15:36-40

temporarily preached separately