



Would you have made a good Israelite?

"Your Lamb shall be without blemish." Exodus 12:5 ESV

Why in the world did God choose to "Passover" the Israelites? After all, they were poor slaves, reluctant to follow Moses, had no obvious worship practices setting them apart from the pagan Egyptian gods, and did not appear openly faithful on their own merits. The Israelites were certainly NOT without blemish! Nevertheless God overlooked these facts and chose them to be His people. *Why?*

Actually, the Israelites were the *perfect* group for God to demonstrate His unconditional love. Not based on their merits, but on God's love! God chose imperfect people, undeserving of forgiveness, and then sealed that Covenant with the blood of a perfect lamb. Foreshadowing His Son, Jesus Christ, God fulfilled His promise based only on Abraham's faith.

When you ponder your thoughts, words and deeds can you stand before God on your merits? Or would you have made a pretty good Israelite? Doubts, weakness and living in our will as opposed to God's Will are all reasons we look to the unblemished Lamb of Christ to intervene on our behalf.

Like the Israelites passing through the flood waters into safe territory our Baptisms began this journey of faith to which we cling to Our Savior. Washed, cleansed, redeemed we live under the blood of the lamb on the doorposts of our hearts.

The terror of this world includes but is not limited to the recent church shooting in Texas. The real terror is that people will die without having resolved this problem between themselves and God. More and more people around us are striving to figure out how they can solve this dilemma. But Christ has resolved the problem. Revel in His Grace and pray for the Holy Spirit to help you share it with a world dying to try to solve it themselves.

Discussion Questions-

1. In what ways are you like the Israelites in captivity?
2. How is your Baptism like the freedom of Passover?
3. Who around you needs to know of God's unconditional love?