New Beginnings

Justin Mock · Exodus 16:1–3

INTRODUCTION

- It is just perfect timing to stand before you and talk about my thoughts behind what it means to have a new beginning and how maybe as Christians we ought to approach new beginnings.
- This morning we're going to look especially at the children of God in the Old Testament, the Israelites, and consider what we can learn from the idea of new beginnings.

1 Every New Beginning Comes From Some Other Beginning's End

Exodus 6; Exodus 16:1–3

- The only way to get into something new, a new chapter, a new era of life, a new beginning, is to deal with the end.
- Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full.
- All it took was six weeks for them to look back and encounter a little bit of hunger to say, Boy, I wish we could go back to Egypt.
- Sometimes the new chapter in life is difficult to accept.
- To experience newness, we have to accept that the old must be done away with.

2 New Beginnings Bring New Challenges

Exodus 13:17; Exodus 14:10–12

- On average, 80% of this excitement and change and potential is abandoned by February.
- Why do we give up by February? Well, it's because inevitably we face a challenge to meeting those goals.
- It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.
- They wanted a new beginning, but they didn't consider the challenges that a new beginning was inevitably going to send their way.
- The start of something new does not mean that the newness by default is going to be easy and free from trials.

3 New Beginnings Require New Growth

- The fact is, new beginnings require new growth.
- What I mean is that the growth has to be purposeful and intentional, and it's something that we have to put effort into.
- If you are no stronger, if you are no more grounded in God, if your faith is not deeper today than it was yesterday, it doesn't really matter what kind of challenge you face in the future.
- But motivation isn't a lasting propellant.

- Discipline really is the simple act of choosing to do what needs to be done, whether or not you want to, whether or not you feel like it.
- And in the same way, we as Christians should be disciplined people.

4 Haven’t You Been Given Freedom?

- God does the unimaginable for you only to seemingly hang you out to dry.
- For those of you who have committed your life to Christ, haven’t you been given freedom? Haven’t you been delivered from an impossible situation?
- How many times do you consider going back to the old you? How many times do you let the temptation of sin creep back into your life?

THE CHALLENGE

Don’t let this opportunity pass you by. Make today your new beginning and be prepared for when you endure your end.

MY NOTES