*****SERMON NOTES *****

Sunday, April 2, 2017

"GOD'S UNCHANGING PLAN"

(Numbers 21:4-9)

Today we continue *The Road to Easter* with an unusual story from the Old Testament. It is one of many stories that point toward our sin and toward our Savior, Jesus. He is God's unchanging plan.

"His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by sending Jesus Christ to die for us. And he did this because he wanted to!" (Ephesians 1:5, TLB).

1. The serpent on the pole
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"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life" (John 3:14-15, ESV).
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"His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by sending Jesus Christ to die for us. And he did this because he wanted to!" (Ephesians 1:5, TLB).

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23, ESV).

"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel" (Genesis 3:15, ESV).

"Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died" (Numbers 21:6, ESV).

"We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us" (Numbers 21:7, ESV).

"Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word" (Psalm 119:67, ESV).

- 1. The serpent on the pole <u>represented sin</u>.
- 2. The serpent on the pole was God's provision.
- 3. The serpent on the pole was a simple solution.

"Unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3, ESV).

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life" (John 3:14-15, ESV).

1. Jesus on the cross <u>represented sin</u>.

"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21, ESV).

2. Jesus on the cross is God's provision.

"God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8, ESV).

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16, ESV).

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9, ESV).

3. Jesus on the cross is a simple solution.