

The Final Series



*Part 3 - What We Learned
Along The Way*



The Final Series

Why Do A Final Series?

- ◆ God worked in and through this group for almost nine years. We should take time to thank God for what He has done.
- ◆ Exodus left the “road-most-travelled” and blazed its own path. We should leave some markers behind in case anyone else wants to follow.
- ◆ By winding down Exodus in this manner, and celebrating our ministry together, we perpetuate Exodus and its legacy.



The Final Series

What Did We Do ... and Why?

- Q. *How did Exodus start?*
- Q. *How did the idea of allowing interactive dialogue develop?*
- Q. *Why record each of the talks?*
- Q. *What was reason for podcasting each of the talks online?*
- Q. *What series did we cover?*



The Final Series

Why Do A Final Series?

- ◆ God worked in and through this group for almost nine years. We should take time to thank God for what He has done.
- ◆ Exodus left the “road-most-travelled” and blazed its own path. We should leave some markers behind in case anyone else wants to follow.
- ◆ By winding down Exodus in this manner, and celebrating our ministry together, we perpetuate Exodus and its legacy.



The Final Series

How Did We Do What We Did?

- Q. *If someone wanted to start their own interactive forum, how would they do it?*
- Q. *What did it take (time-wise and resource-wise to put on Exodus every week)?*
- Q. *What did a typical week look like?*
- Q. *Who was involved behind the scenes?*



The Final Series

How Did We Do What We Did?

- Q. *How did we select the topics / series for Exodus?*
- Q. *How did we select the books we used?*
- Q. *How does interactive teaching work (and what doesn't work)?*



The Final Series

What Did We Learn Along the Way?



What Did ***You*** Learn Along The Way?

(What note would you leave behind for those who might follow?)



The Final Series

What Did We Learn Along the Way?

About Doing An Interactive Forum:

- ♦ An interactive forum is not for everyone. But for those who needed it, it was like water in the desert.
- ♦ Learning deeply about God works all of the muscles: heart, soul, strength and mind.
- ♦ People don't like to work out. They prefer to meet with friends at a restaurant.
- ♦ Our struggles with our faith are more similar than we'd like to admit, and the resources to address them are way more plentiful than we care to engage.



The Final Series

What Did We Learn Along the Way?

About Opening Up the Floor to Comments:

- ◆ Within reason, differences of opinion, views and experiences enrich us. God speaks to us in our deliberation.
- ◆ In the church, we often prefer packaged presentations and avoiding anything that detracts from the polished look we are projecting. We may be tuning out the Holy Spirit's voice.
- ◆ You have no clue how your message is being received until you allow others to interrupt you, challenge you or wrestle with what you are saying.



The Final Series

What Did We Learn Along the Way?

About the Need for Community:

- ◆ Without a community of people who know and care about one another, and who are committed to bearing with one another in love, this would turn into the Christian equivalent of the Jerry Springer Show.
- ◆ People are often there for reasons you can only guess. More often than not, you guess wrong.
- ◆ Community is often invoked or declared, but rarely experienced. Hospitality is even more rare. So many of our relationships are proximity-based and programmatic.



The Final Series

What Did We Learn Along the Way?

About Making It to 30 (or 40):

- ◆ Getting your doctrine/theology right sounds very unspiritual, and it is popular to suggest more spiritual uses of your time. But bad theology is responsible for so many Christians losing their faith.
- ◆ Speaking only to the heart results in momentary inspiration. Forming (renewing) the mind results in life-long transformation.
- ◆ Peoples' "center of gravity" is stronger than we imagine. Change is difficult without the Holy Spirit's power.
- ◆ Spiritual warfare is real.



The Final Series

What Did We Learn Along the Way?

About Making It to 30 (or 40):

- ♦ What people are “going through” often overwhelms anything they are learning / could learn about God.
- ♦ Faith in Jesus Christ can not only be defended, but it can be confidently trusted. In nine years, we did not find an issue that precluded faith. We did explore many difficult questions and issues, some of which were used as reasons for those who had already chosen not to believe.
- ♦ It is hard to impart wisdom without the underlying experience. (“It’s hard being a man from the future.”)
- ♦ Some people are just not going to make it.



The Final Series

What Did We Learn Along the Way?

About Pitfalls to Look Out For:

- ◆ Deconstruction is cheap and it is easy. But deconstruction without reconstruction is cruel, and dishonors God.
- ◆ Going deeper requires a relationship (and community). Drive by shootings are hugely damaging to people's faith.
- ◆ It is much easier to take shots at someone else's belief or action than to take a faith posture of your own and live out faith publicly in front of others.
- ◆ It is easy to become cynical and to replace "a critical mind" with a spirit of criticism. We are not the Savior, and the church belongs to Him.



The Final Series

Next Week ...

Answering the Rest of the Questions

(aka Monique interviews John with no question being off limits)



INTERACTIVE



Participate, ask questions, talk back...

What if we listened to what everyone had to say — and discovered that God can speak through us all? After all, we all learn better when we talk things out, hear different points of view, and give room for the Spirit to speak through our deliberation.

[Read more](#)

THOUGHTFUL



Test everything, hold on to what is good...

Many hours of research are dedicated to prepare each one of our series. We explore the scriptures, the breadth of Christian scholarship, contemporary authors, and consider a wide range of sources outside of our faith.

[Read more](#)

FAITHFUL



Set apart Christ as Lord...

We all have questions. But we learn together in a way that tackles the deepest part of our doubts while making sure that our purpose is clear: to always know the reason for the hope that we have in Jesus Christ, and to be prepared to share that answer with everyone who asks us about that hope.

[Read more](#)

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF
EXODUS INTERACTIVE FORUM.

WE WELCOME YOU TO SEND
FEEDBACK, QUESTIONS OR
COMMENTS, AND WE WOULD
LOVE TO HEAR HOW EXODUS HAS
IMPACTED YOU. EMAIL US AT:

INFO@EXODUSPODCASTS.COM

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:

WWW.EXODUSPODCASTS.COM

- ☑ ALL OF OUR PODCASTS
- ☑ POWERPOINT SLIDES
- ☑ PODCAST TRANSCRIPTS
- ☑ BLOG UPDATES
- ☑ REFERENCE MATERIALS

© 2013 EXODUS INTERACTIVE FORUM.
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

YOU MAY FREELY DISTRIBUTE WITHOUT ALTERATION.