

3 Lent 2010
Exodus 3:1-15
Ps. 63:1-8
1 Cor 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

May the words of my mouth and the meditations of our hearts be always acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our strength and our redeemer. AMEN

Today we hear part of the story of Moses. At the time we enter the story, he has found a safe place to live, founded a family and was out doing his regular work.

But he had a much different beginning and life. First he was born to a Hebrew mother, during a time when all male Hebrew babies were to be killed. You may remember that his mother prayed for his safety before putting him in a water safe basket. An

Egyptian princess found him and brought him up in her home.

As an infant he nursed at his mothers breast. I expect as a very young child he leaned about the Hebrews. Then he was brought up as a young Egyptian youth. Perhaps he got confused as to who he really was: but it seems as when he was grown, he related to his Hebrew background.

As a young man he noticed how hard work of the Hebrews; how the Egyptian would beat any worker that they thought they should be working harder.

One day, when Moses noticed this, and there seemed to be no one around, he killed the Egyptian and buried him in the sand.

However he found out someone had seen him, and to save his own life he ran from Pharaoh land and settled in Midian. There he felt safe, worked with the locals, married a

young woman and spent his days watching and protecting flocks of sheep.

And now, we move to the next part of his life story.

Moses saw a burning bush. And his curiosity got the best of him. He had to go over, and see the bush that was not burning up.

You heard the story.. God wanted to get Moses attention. There was special job for Moses. “I am the God of your fathers, of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” God was aware of the difficulty Hebrews had to live under. “I have come down to deliver them.” And Moses I want your help.

Did Moses respond, “Of course, God. What ever you want God. I am willing.”

No.

Moses found all kinds of excuses. First “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

I expect he was afraid to go back to the country where he had murdered an Egyptian.

“ I can’t speak well.”

But God answered fears.. “I will be with you.”

Moses had another excuse. “The Israelites would never listen to me. Suppose I say to them “The God of your ancestors has sent me to you.. and they ask me, “What is his name”. what shall I say to them.

“God said to Moses, ‘I am who I am.’ Or maybe we could translate it as “I will be who I will be. This is my name forever.”

The rest of the story tells us that Moses finally followed God’s wishes. And the Israelites left Egypt and the hard labor .

When God wanted to get Moses’ attention, there was a burning bush.

During this Lent, God may be trying to get your attention?

I would not expect that you would see a bush that burns but is not consumed.

Think of the burning bush as a metaphor.

What might be your ‘burning bush’?.....

What would God have to do to get your attention?

Would you say yes, God, what ever you want me to do?

Or would you use find lots of excuses?

Would you say “I am not worthy.”

“I do not have the skills needed.”

“I can’t do that.”

“Oh, please, send someone else.”

God promised to send help.

God did send us help.

We have a God who is not only the God of our ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob..

Our God sent Jesus to show us how to live.. how to say yes to God.. Jesus lived in a body like ours, he sweated, he hungered, he bled..

He was tested as we are.. but did not sin.

And what will God ask of us? How are we tempted?

As baptized members of the church we are to proclaim God's good news by what we do and say; seek and serve Christ in all persons; strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being.

We might be tempted to ignore some human beings. It is a challenge in today's world, to respect the dignity of every human being.. the disabled, the disadvantaged, the noisy neighbor, the poor, the elderly, the sick, and as we begin the National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS; those living with HIV or dying with AIDS. As Baptized Christians,

this is God's challenge to us. AND our commitment to God to respect EVERY human being.

And we are to resist evil and whenever we fall into sin.. "leaving undone those things we ought to have done, and ..have done those things we ought not to have done," (notice done and undone)... and to repent and return to the Lord depending on the mercy and grace of our God.

In the collect we prayed "we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves." we need to be defended against all evil thoughts which assault and hurt the soul.

Luckily Paul tells us in his letter to the Corinthians, "God is faithful, and will not let you be tested beyond your strength."

And in the psalm we read.. "O God, you are my God, eagerly I seek you... for you have

been my helper and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.”

As we move further into Lent,
may we let God defend us,
forgive us and
help us live the abundant life Jesus
promised.