

Sermon - July 19, 2009

Thank You Moses

Let us pray. Lord of our life, through all the circling years, Your hand we see. Thank you for Your Word to us, the message of Your plans for us, Your people. May the words of my mouth, and the thoughts of these your loving and faithful people, be, by the working of Your Spirit, Your word a new for us this day in Christ. Amen.

Thank you, Moses. Thank you for the man Moses and his story. And all that is in his story that helps us understand in new ways the wonder of what God seeks to do for us and with us in the gift to us of Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

From the stories of Moses' birth, and Jesus' birth, and the similar circumstances, both by God's power, made part of a unique family - to the end of their lives, when neither person sees on earth the wonder of the new thing, the new people, they set loose in the world - Moses and Jesus are linked across the pages of the Bible.

And after a week of learning again, with our children, about the details of Moses' life, I am moved to say - thank you Moses. Thank you for the outline of faith in Moses' life of how faith works, that will become only fully clear in the life of Jesus Christ, but is there for us to see in how Moses lived.

2

Thank you for the events in Moses' life that can help us better understand some of the things that happened in Jesus' life - that were and are a message of God's plan and will for us and our living.

The miracle of Moses' and Jesus' birth stories - both protected by men who were not their biological fathers - both babies escaping possible death by the action of slightly mad rulers....one safe in Pharaoh's palace, the other safe for awhile in Egypt.

Both young men finding new direction in their lives, God's direction, at age 12, Moses by his move to Pharaoh's palace, Jesus with the Priests in Jerusalem, and Both men shaped and formed and readied for the special Godly lives they would lead by their experiences in the wilderness.

And then each of them finding their special powers as God's chosen persons in the wonders they performed with, especially with water - a sea divided at Moses' command, a sea calmed by Jesus words.

Both Moses and Jesus finding vital support in the lives of their brothers, and each of them creating by their ministries a new people - Moses helped create the nation of Israel, and Jesus, the Church, the living Body of Christ.

And each of them sharing God's truth in ways that easily became fixed in the minds of Believers... Even if what they gave us is easy enough to remember, it has proved harder to follow their teaching.

Proved harder to follow - The 10 commandments and the Beattitudes. Clear and simple - and - sometimes - sometimes - because I know who he is - Jesus Christ - Son of God, my Lord and my Savior - Sometimes I am a bit hard pressed in seeing how I can possibly live up to the life of faithfulness I see in him.

And then, anew this week, I am grateful to see in Moses, a very human person, flawed as I am, sinner as I am, but one who is willing to let himself be transformed by God's gracious mercy, and forgiveness and Amazing Grace.

And - thank you Moses - for God's call to me in your story to lean more and more fully into God's word and way and truth. To trust God's goodness in the most challenging times in my life.

3

A good year for us to have experienced in VBS the life of Moses.... We are faced with truly tough and challenging times right now - as tough a time as this state and our area has faced since the great Depression. It's not frogs and flies and lice and locusts...that bedevil us - but different and deadly pests, the evils, of greed and selfishness have eaten away at our lives with devastating force.

And it would appear - so far - that the powers that be don't have much concern for this state and our economy.

We heard the news this week - the financial folks who truly caused this disaster by their greed and care-less ness, have made out like the bandits they are - again. The average employee of Goldman Sachs is likely to make a bonus of 700,000. The average employee of GM - is out of a job, and the average retiree is out of

medical benefits and much of his or her pension.

And... and.... there is - to be sure, no instant comfort - but still a strong measure of promise and hope for us in Moses' story. For all the times that life knocked him off his feet he found the power and strength in his faith to keep on getting up and moving forward, and finding God's way through the truly tough times he faced.

That's good news to me – for us. We are drowning in our own red or reed sea. But God can and God does open ways through the deep waters for God's people. God calls us and guides into ways of living that enable us to move forward through the hardest of times. Even as the Hebrews survived and even thrived in their hard times in Egypt, so can we. And we do...

In the ways we help each other – the Monday Career transition group, the people who have helped set up a small emergency need fund for any of our members who need help. The encouragement and support we offer to each other.

Thank you Moses.... Help us to see in your story more and more clearly the truth and power and wonder and God's goodness in life, and in the life of Jesus Christ.

Thank you Moses - for the reminder of how this strange experience of life is supposed to work... That we come from God - that we are born into a world that will test us from our birth - that we are to remember that this is not the place where our story begins or ends - but that we are Children of God –

4

We are called to be, by faith, forever children of the kingdom. And that nothing – no thing – and no power, can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord and our Savior. This day – this day – thank you Moses - for offering anew - the promise of God's guidance through this wilderness.

Thank you. Moses.

Amen.

David W. Robertson, Pastor