

Notes: Exodus 2.26-3.15

I don't think there has ever been a time in which God's people are not called to resist, to do something that will change the way things are, into the way things should be. It is this evolution that is God's Kingdom coming to be. I say this knowing that some people imagine a time when things were so much better (maybe in your childhood or in the perception of an historical era). No matter what idyllic time (the post war 50s possibly or the roaring 20s, possibly during the reign of the legendary King David). Injustice was right there, under the surface, for some, waiting to be exposed. Waiting for someone to point it out and to demand it to stop. This continues to today. The reality is that God's Kingdom is still a work in progress.

And the thing is that those who have the power in this or any other era are not going to realize that injustice is happening, because they are blinded by how comfortable they are in the status quo. And the thing is that in many instances, we are the ones that have the power and who are blinded to the injustice that is happening around us every day. That is the way human nature works, but that is not how it works in God's Kingdom.

In the first verses of today's lesson, we hear that the Israelites cried out and God heard it. God remembered the promises. And God did something about it.

Last week, we heard about Moses' birth. Moses grew up in the house of the Pharaoh. He had all the treasures of a dream life. But Moses fled his adopted home when he realized that his people, the Israelites, were being treated badly by the Pharaoh. If you know the story, he struck down the taskmaster, buried his body, and then fled to Midian. Moses had been in the seat of power, but in Midian he found himself about as far as possible away from any sort of influence. He went from the royal court, to watching over the sheep of his father-in-law in the middle of the Sinai desert. It was here that Moses experienced God's call. It is one of the most famous stories in the entire Bible. He saw a burning bush that was not consumed. It was out in the middle of the desert and Moses chose to approach it. He was told to take off his shoes and he heard God's vision for his life.

Moses was not a likely choice to lead God's people. For one thing, he wasn't even in Egypt, at the time, and he didn't think he had the qualities. Even though he was called in the most amazing way, his response was to list the reasons that he couldn't do it.

1. Who am I?
2. I don't know your name.
Not in today's reading
3. What if they don't believe me?
4. I am not an eloquent speaker.

But these very reasons are why God called Moses. God is not looking for perfect people. God isn't looking for the most powerful people, God isn't looking for the most eloquent or the wealthiest or the smartest. God wants people who can see that injustice exists. And that is Moses. God calls the people on the margins to shake up the system and bring about the justice we all deserve.

And that is why the Exodus story inspires so many people who live every day at the whim of the powerful.

God's people are those who see injustice. Do you see injustice around you? Where is there injustice?

There have been many things happening around us this week. In Texas and Louisiana, our neighbors have lost much due to Hurricane Harvey. I wrote in our Wednesday newsletter about ways to help people overcome their hardship. There was a statement issued by some more conservative Christians condemning the lives and love of those who are gay. And Bishop Mariann has spoken out about the possibility of DACA being rescinded.

All of these happenings call us to address the injustice that exists around us. If we are aware of the injustice, then God is calling us to do what we must to bring about God's Kingdom. The Burning Bush is our call to bring about God's vision for all people.