

Reflection

Exodus 3, 1-15, Matthew 116,21-28

Moses was about 80, when he met God by the burning bush (*Exodus 7:7*). That is just to put this great event into human perspective. We may not expect life changing revelations and calling at that age. He was over 1600 years old when he met Jesus, Elijah, Peter, James and John (*Matthew 17:3*). That is also to put Moses in realities we may not see with our physical sight, yet so significant we can hardly overestimate them. As Moses was chosen to lead God's people to freedom, so was Jesus, but in a different style. In Moses mission many people died, in Jesus mission only one person had to die and it was Jesus himself.

In the time of Moses God demonstrated his character by focusing on a particular community –Israel. They became a witness to all other nations. They became like a letter to read about what is the true God like. They were given the law (*Moses 10 commandments*) and preserved it throughout generations until Jesus came. Then things took an unexpected course. Jesus acted a bit “strangely” when it came to the questions of the law. The apostle Paul explained it in his letter to the Galatians. (*Gal 3:24 “the law became our custodian until Christ”*) This resounds the promise which some of the prophets foresaw. Jeremiah 31:33 “*I will put my instructions within them and engrave them on their hearts*” and Ezekiel 36:25-27

These two eras of history, when Moses and Jesus acted, could resemble the lockdown of this recent year 2020. First when humanity is locked down under Moses law of 10 commandments. Infected by sin, we need this law to keep us under some level of order. Most of the population today respects this moral and ethical code and keeps it as standard behaviour. It is a matter of discussion as to how well we are doing. Second era does not start until Jesus comes. He breaks the chains and frees us from the power of the corrupted nature dwelling in us. It does not happen automatically, we have to choose Jesus.

When Jesus spoke to his disciples about writing Gods law onto people's hearts Peter did not like the way it is going to happen. We do not like that way either. We still tend to think that we could save our souls by intelligence. And it is a good and important belief. We have to live in a hope that what we do is good. The quality of life has improved tremendously, but when it comes to the matters of our souls or minds we are so fragile. It is an uncharted world and so damaged by false hopes, expectations, fears, guilt, etc. Yet most would respond today to Jesus: “*you do not have to die for me, I can manage my life... “*

But Jesus did not give up. Thanks be to God. Although it must have been one of the most discouraging parts of his mission - to see that people do not understand how much they need God. They approached him for healing, feeding, listening to good stories, but when he said John 6:53-60: “*that they have to drink his blood and eat his flesh*” many left him in disgust. Even Peter who just a few days before declared Jesus to be the Messiah was now talking him out of the very essence of his mission.

Jesus rebuked Peter and came up with a beautiful speech, which was really only a few sentences, but can have a tremendous impact on our everyday life perspectives. He said, that the human soul is the most precious and valuable thing in the whole universe. That is

what God thinks of each of one of us?! That is beautiful. In comparison we do not value life much. In words perhaps yes, but in reality not. God does. He wants it to last forever and he designed us for eternity. We do not take this much into account. We live like this is it and there is nothing to follow. But God says differently. Look at Moses, how old would he be now? Imagine the “burning bush” that it is still burning in the hearts of God’s people.

Recently in one of our prayer group we shared a video. It said that the church is not a community centre but a hospital. Let’s think of the church as a hospital with its different departments, with one difference, it heals people’s souls. We will remain under lockdown until we let Jesus heal our souls.