

SERMON: 6 September 2020 – Rev Alistair Cowper

“The Moses Files”

(Ex 3:1-15 and Exodus 12:1-14)

1

Curious wonders exist in the midst of ordinary days.

The burning bush is God’s way of trying to get people’s attention to meet them on holy ground with the promise of rescue.

IT’S GOOD TO BE ALERT TO THE CURIOUS WONDERS IN OUR WORLD AS
GOD’S WAY OF GETTING PEOPLE’S ATTENTION

2

We never feel equipped or up to the task.

But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?
(Exodus 3:11)

IT’S GOOD TO HAVE A HEALTHY HUMILITY OF OUR OWN SMALL SELF AND
THE COURAGE TO EMBRACE OUR TRUE SELF

Yet God answers Moses’ fears with the promise that

“I will be with you” (Exodus 3:12).

That’s really all Moses needed to know - or was it? (i’m not a good speaker).

I will be with you everyday, every moment, in every circumstance.

I will be with you in your pain and in your rejoicing.

I will be with you in your grieving and your hurting.

I will be with you in your waiting.

I am Yahweh.

God said to Moses, “I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I am has sent me to you.’
(Exodus 3:14)

I am who I am.

I will be what I will be.

I am with you.

In you.

As close as the breath you breathe.

Christ is in you, the hope of glory, declares the NT
(Colossians 1.27).

Jesus used the very same words when he told his friends I will be with you after being raised from the dead.

This is really key - getting this ingrained in our psyche.

Sitting with this truth in silence and in solitude.

Practising this truth in our everyday moments.

So that when we see burning bushes in our everyday comings and goings, we'll be alert to turning aside and listening to the voice of love within, and rising up to live out of that place of love and belonging.

IT'S GOOD TO PRACTISE THE PRESENCE OF GOD WITH US

3

But for Moses, as for us, before things got better, things got worse for God's people in Egypt, the land of captivity.

The oppression increased - bricks without straw.

But amidst it all God promises deliverance.

But there are more and more signs and wonders to come, to get Pharaoh's attention, and reveal the might power of God in Egypt, the light in the place of darkness.

4

Ex 12:1-14

In the midst of plague (and pandemic?), God's response is Passover - a memorial of salvation and deliverance.

Passover was to be a symbol of the beginning of a new year for the whole people.

A new year is announced to God's people in the midst of their captivity.

The years of slavery and oppression were coming to an end through the word of God.

The days of captivity would become the day of deliverance by the mighty power of God.

(Exodus 13:3).

God's plan of deliverance would be a plan of justice and peace.

IT'S GOOD TO KNOW THAT GOD'S PROMISE OF DELIVERANCE HAS BEGUN

5

There is a just sharing of resources - if a household is too small for a whole lamb it was to go together with its neighbour.

And the blood of the lamb shall feed them and 'save' them.

God raised Christ from the dead in the midst of the darkness and oppression of Roman occupation.

So much of the Bible and the Gospel is about celebrating God's new life in the midst of old and new light in the midst of darkness and freedom in the midst of captivity.

It's rejoicing in what is not yet seen fully but which has been glimpsed from afar and which is coming nearer with every passing moment.

It's about a new way to be human in the world.

Richard Rohr caught it for me this week when he wrote that,

"Our life's goal is to illustrate both the *image* and the *likeness* of God by living in conscious loving union with God. It is a moment by moment choice and surrender".

IT'S GOOD TO BE ALIVE IN UNION WITH GOD AND ALL CREATION - WE STAND ON HOLY GROUND

SUMMARY:

IT'S GOOD TO BE ALERT TO THE CURIOUS WONDERS IN OUR WORLD AS GOD'S WAY OF GETTING PEOPLE'S ATTENTION

IT'S GOOD TO HAVE A HEALTHY HUMILITY OF OUR OWN SMALL SELF AND THE COURAGE TO EMBRACE OUR TRUE SELF

IT'S GOOD TO PRACTISE THE PRESENCE OF GOD WITH US

IT'S GOOD TO KNOW THAT GOD'S PROMISE OF DELIVERANCE HAS BEGUN

IT'S GOOD TO BE ALIVE IN UNION WITH GOD AND ALL CREATION - WE STAND ON HOLY GROUND