

Thought for the Day

Thought for the day is based on one of the day's lectionary readings.

For the Bible online, go to: <http://bible.oremus.org/>

Choose your version (we use NRSV in church)

Copy and paste the reference into the search box and the passage will be displayed.

Tuesday 24 March

Exodus 2.23-3.20

'I have observed the misery of my people... I know their sufferings... I have come to deliver them.' (Ex 3.7-8)

Moses encounters God at the burning bush in the desert. He receives this message from God, who goes on to commission him to be the agent of God's deliverance for the Israelites, and who reveals to Moses the sacred name, 'I am who I am'.

It's a familiar story to many of us. We tend to think of Moses as a towering spiritual leader, chosen by God, given special powers, uniquely close to God, who was later said to converse with God face to face 'as one talks with a friend'. His face shone with the glory of that Presence after each encounter, so bright that it had to be veiled.

But remember where Moses came from and his recent history. He had not covered himself with glory so far! He killed an Egyptian and fled from Pharaoh, hiding in the wilderness, as 'an alien in a foreign land' (Ex 2.22). Since then he lived as a humble shepherd.

It's one of many examples in Scripture of a person transformed through being called by God into a particular mission.

You and I are also being called by God. We too can say with confidence that God has observed our misery, the suffering that we are going through as a human race, and since God became human, we can be especially sure that there is no aspect of the present crisis that God does not identify with and empathise with and weep over. Moses was called to step up into a difficult task at a time of great need. So are we. What can we do, each of us in their own 'small corner', to be the agent of a saving God? We love and serve the God who brings joy out of grief and life out of death. How can we act to transform the world around us? There will be many different ways, depending on our circumstances, but each of us should be working this out and acting upon it.

'I will bring you up out of Egypt to a land flowing with milk and honey.' Ex 3.17

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort, knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.