

group Bible Study – October 10, 2007

Read Exodus Chapters 2-4

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This week we're reading Exodus chapters 2-4. In this section of the book, God has heard the groaning of the people in captivity. And God has decided to step into history and act on their behalf—to set them free.

How will God do this thing? Maybe an army of angels from heaven to fight against the slave masters? Maybe a snap of God's fingers, and all of a sudden the Israelites are magically transported to the Promised Land?

Well, that's not what happens. And this is the lesson for us this week: God decides to set the people free and *chooses a human being* to do the work. God hears the cries of the Hebrew people and says to Moses: "Go!"

It's true that the Exodus story contains many miracles from God. Divine plagues, angel of death, tree branches turning into snakes. But before any of that happens, God chooses Moses. God will make sure the ultimate plan is realized, but at the same time God will put the mission into the hands of the chosen one(s).

This week's reading tells us a lot about what it means to be the People of God today. It tells us that God has plans for the world, and that God will make sure those plans are completed one way or another. We also learn that God chooses to use people to make things happen. God called Moses to do something, and throughout history ever since that time, God has called a group of people to be set-apart to work out the divine plans for the earth. We are that People.

If we read the whole story of God's world from start to finish, we get this grand vision of what God is doing in this universe. We see that God has acted in the past, and that God has promised to set this whole earth free from its captivity to sin and death in the future. The end of the story is salvation and redemption and healing.

We are God's People on the way to that future. God's kingdom is our true home, and it is coming to this place—this we believe. Our mission now is no different from that of Moses: to be God's partners in the process.

Study Questions (for individuals or small groups):

- Moses joined God in the task of redeeming the people of Israel. We are called to join God in a more massive task today: the redeeming of everything. How is God calling you in particular to join this mission with your life? Think big and think small.
- When God calls Moses to join this mission in Exodus 2-4, Moses' response is not too enthusiastic. Look carefully at each thing Moses says and each question he asks. Do you have this same attitude toward God? In what ways is this true of us today, or not?