

BIBLE STUDY
March 14 and 17, 2022

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Exodus 3: 1-8a, 13-15

Luke 13: 1-9

1 Corinthians 10: 1-6, 10-12

1. Exodus 3: 1-8a, 13-15

- God makes his presence known to Moses in the form of a burning bush that burns but is not consumed by the fire. As Moses approaches to investigate this miraculous sign, he is told to take off his shoes for he is standing on holy ground. God reveals himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Moses hides his face so that he will not look at God and, as popularly held, he would die.
- God reveals that he has seen the sufferings of his people and has come down to do something about it. He will liberate them from the enslavement of Egypt and bring to the Promised Land. The Israelites have been enslaved for 400 years? Why did God wait so long? We do not know. God answers in his own time according to his own plan. But, it implies that God is always watching.
- Moses will be God's representative. He will go to Pharaoh and tell him to free his people. Moses, like a true prophet, objects that he is not capable of taking on this task. God assures him that he will be with him to accomplish it. The sign that God will be with him is the liberation of Israel and their possession of the Promised Land.
- Moses objects further that the Israelites will not believe him. God reveals his name: I am who I am.
- "I shall be with you; as who I am, shall I be with you!" God meets us where we are and reveals himself to us. Then he withdraws from us for a while so that we have to come to him and meet him as he is. This is the growth that happens in our relationship with God. At first, God meets us with consolation and peace. Then, we may experience his absence for a while during which time we mature and grow in our relationship. We are not dependent on consolation but we deepen in our desire for God by searching for him. Then, he has us meet him where he is—which is through the cross of Jesus and mystery that we must pass through suffering in order to reach glory.
- God is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. There is continuity from the covenant God made with Abraham to the covenant that he will make with Moses and the Israelites at Mt. Sinai.

2. Luke 13: 1-9

- People report to Jesus about two current events that must have made a big impression on people and that everyone is talking about. Pilate's massacre of Galileans sacrificing in the Temple and a tower that collapsed with a large loss of life. Jesus says that the persons who died did not lose

their lives because of any wrong they had done. Jesus says that these events are a warning that things like this can happen to anyone at any time. We must be ready because something worse could happen to us if we are not ready for judgement.

- Then Jesus tells a parable about a fig tree that is not producing fruit. The owner of the orchard wants to cut it down because it has not produced any fruit in three years. It is only taking up space and exhausting the soil. The gardener asks that the owner leave it for another year. He will cultivate and fertilize it to see if it will produce fruit. If it does not produce fruit in a year, then it will be cut down.
- The point of the parable is that this is our final year. We have not produced the fruit that is due God. He gives us another chance to see if we produce fruit.

3. 1 Corinthians 10: 1-6, 10-12

- Paul says that all of the Israelites experienced all of the savings events of the Exodus. They passed through the cloud, they came through the Red Sea, they were “baptized” into Moses, they ate the manna and they drank the water from the rock. But they still displeased God by doubting him and asking, “Is God with us or not?” They were punished for their hardness of heart.
- If they were punished, we too should be concerned. They are an example to us. We should not be stubborn and hard of heart or grumble against God for we too will be punished. Do not presume God’s mercy. Do not become self-assured because you may fall.