

Week 5: February 14, 2008
CCP 213
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*****PowerPoint notes with PowerPoint will be on the website after next week.**

X. Moses and the Exodus (cf. *Word of the Week* on **Departure).** Moses continues the expansion of God's covenant blessing as he establishes a national covenant in the Passover sacrifice along with the law in the 10 Commandments.

- A. Summary and main points of Moses in History. Exodus picks up where Genesis left off (remember the narrative books). The inheritors of the promise of Abraham are in Egypt.
 - 1. 400 years of oppression for the Israelites when we read that Jezebel sent Moses down the river to be followed by his sister Miriam. Moses would be raised as Prince of Egypt.
 - a. The Hebrew word for basket is the same word used for the Ark.
 - 2. In defense for his people he kills a fellow Egyptian and flees to the East.
 - 3. Flight into Median (40 years) where he encounters YHWH on Mt. Sinai. God calls Moses to return to Egypt and set his people free.
 - a. With the aid of his brother Aaron, Moses would ultimately comply with God's request to return to Egypt.
 - 4. Moses goes to Pharaoh and he first refuses (the workload is doubled for the slaves) only to have Moses return a second time with the Ten Plagues and the smite of the first-born.
 - a. Israelites were called to put the blood on the doorposts as a sign to the angel of death that you belonged to Yahweh.
 - 5. Exodus from slavery via the Red Sea. Two months later they arrive at Sinai where Moses receives the 10 Commandments.
 - a. Water from the rock at Horeb—MEEKNESS!
 - b. The Exodus is linked to worship and law. Freedom is necessary to express and live all the laws, the heights of which are achieved in love. There are four categories of law:
 - 1. Civil: regulates society (Leviticus)
 - 2. Liturgical: regulates ceremony (Leviticus)
 - 3. Moral: regulates relationships (10 Commandments)
 - 4. Love: regulates identity (Golden rule)
 - 6. Worship of the Golden calf and the Levitical Priesthood.
 - b. Moses is indignant at the sight of the Golden calf...He still intercedes on behalf of the people and reminds God of His covenant.
 - 7. Building of the Sanctuary that they will carry with them during their time in the wilderness.
 - a. This prefigures the church in our time here on earth...what the spiritual doctors of the church call the desert.
- B. Moses highlighted in the Book of Exodus.

1. Ex.3.1... *“Moses was keeping the flock.”* God has a love affair with shepherds. They have the role of constantly bringing the flock together again, guarding it from the wolves.
2. Ex.3.2... *“The bush was burning.”* God’s love is described as fire.
 - a. God’s fire is a saving fire: Pillar of fire, tongues of fire, etc...
3. Ex.3.5... *“You are standing on holy ground.”*
 - a. Is.6 and Rev.4... *God is described as “holy holy, holy.”*
4. Ex.3.11; 4.10-17... *“Who am I.”* False humility or genuine humility. Do we trust in God’s strength to carry us in our vocation?
 5. Ex.3.12... *“I will be with you. This will be the sign.”* The sign is the fact that God sends! We must cooperate in grace.
5. Ex.3.14... *“I am who I am.”* God’s essence is love (1 Jn.4.16) and points to our vocation of realizing our identity and being.
 - a. Pope John Paul II: *“Become who you are.”* Our life is a process of letting go and being more grafted to God.
6. Ex.3.19; 4.1-8... What is the importance of *“rod”* and *“hand.”*

Authority

- 1-rod
- 2-hand

Evil/Satan

- 1-Serpent
- 2-leprosy (cf. Is.6)

- a. God uses this illustration to emphasize that he has authority over what is going on in Egypt.
 1. Leprosy is the state of Israel after their stay in Egypt.