

So last week we heard Moses call story, We saw his encounter with the I AM, with the Holy presence of God at the burning bush, it's from that call that Moses goes back to Egypt and goes before pharaoh.

I willing to guess this is one of the wider known stories from the bible that most of our culture can recognize. It's incredibly important story to 3 faiths and especially Judaism, this is there redemption and salvation story. And since it's so important it's showed up in our pop culture again and again. I still remember the 10 commandments being played every year on TV. I bet a lot of you do too. I know we watch it every year. I can picture it vividly, that scene with Heston and pharaoh.

Moses laying heavy on the staff, got his one foot up on the step, looking pharaoh just dead in the eye and saying

“Let my people go!

And then pharaoh all smug. “They are mine” and then the staff becomes the snake. It's great. But I have to say, and I know this this might offend some people out there, but my favorite exodus story has

Got to be Prince of Egypt. The Animated one that came out in the late 90's. I think it's incredible, the music, the actors, the whole thing, except for of thing. And maybe you remember the scene. And its streaming on Hulu, so you can go watch it right after service.

It's the scene that sets up the tenth plague. Moses comes and finds pharaoh, they chat about old times a little, get along a little and then pharaohs son shows up and this sparks this intense anger from Pharaoh and he does this huge line

"There shall be a loud cry throughout the whole land of Egypt, such as has never been or will ever be again"

Then the music sweeps up and we are reminded how the Egyptians kill the first born of the Hebrews and we see that it's really pharaoh who names the 10th plague, it's all pharaohs fault that all these people are going to die. If he just would have relented, if he would have said anything else it wouldn't have happened.

But the thing is in the bible it is not pharaoh who says that. It's Moses. It's Moses speaking what God had told him. It happens in Exodus 11, right before our reading from today in exodus 12.

6 Then there will be a loud cry throughout the whole land of Egypt, such as has never been or will ever be again.

Pharaoh may be the bad guy in the story but he didn't come up with the idea to kill the firstborn.

This whole section is hard for us to deal with, isn't it? We want there to be a bad guy who we can lay all the blame on. We don't like to see God as the one killing kids and animals. And yet here we are. How do we explore this side of our Faith, this side of God?

And you might be thinking well, that was the old testament, that was so long ago, that really doesn't matter. Think again, we have to deal with

this issue directly, this is a part of our faith. There is a direct line between what happens with Pharaoh and God and Jesus and the cross. Without the 10th plague there is no Passover, there is no freedom of the Hebrews, there is no continuation of the promises made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, no nation of Israel, no promises and prophecies of the messiah. From there, there is no one to bear and give birth to the Son of God. No Passover ceremony for our God to be celebrating with his disciples and to show us the gift of his body and blood. There is no one to put the savior of the entire world up on the cross to die for our sins.

This event between Pharaoh and God shows us a God that we don't tend to like thinking about. This is a God that is clearly the one doing the action. So how do we face this God? The really only way that we can when you face the Alpha and the Omega, The beginning and the End, the Lion and the Lamb, our Creator and our Redeemer. With a whole bunch of humility.

This is our God. Who about all else, deserves our respect. This is a God who deserves our humility. We do not walk into the presence of God without acknowledging what we are doing. Every time we face the holy, whether in prayer or praise, this is not an entity that we control. Our God doesn't just bend to our will, instead we bend ours to God.

It's this humility before our God that gets lived out in our actions to our Neighbors. Paul lays that out perfectly in our romans reading.

“Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.”

We all know the law of our God and understand how that law affects us and our community. We follow the Law of our God because it is the law that shows God and shows God love for the world, for your neighbors, for you. I'm sure that you can think of a few things that you can do in your everyday life that you can show the people around you that they are beloved of their creator. This is our call that we humbly follow as brothers and sisters in Christ. We can take care of each other in every

way that we can. We can watch out for each other, whether that is a stranger in the grocery store or your grandmother. We can show the love of our God again and again and again every day.