

Scripture

Exodus 2:1-22

¹ Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman.² The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. ³ When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴ His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

⁵ The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. ⁶ When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. ⁷ Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" ⁸ Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹ Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰ When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

¹¹ One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and saw their forced labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his kinsfolk. ¹² He looked this way and that, and seeing no one he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. ¹³ When he went out the next day, he saw two Hebrews fighting; and he said to the one who was in the wrong, "Why do you strike your fellow Hebrew?" ¹⁴ He answered, "Who made you a ruler and judge over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid and thought, "Surely the thing is known." ¹⁵ When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses.

But Moses fled from Pharaoh. He settled in the land of Midian, and sat down by a well. ¹⁶ The priest of Midian had seven daughters. They came to draw water, and filled the troughs to water their father's flock. ¹⁷ But some shepherds came and drove them away. Moses got up and came to their defense and watered their flock. ¹⁸ When they returned to their father Reuel, he said, "How is it that you have come back so soon today?" ¹⁹ They said, "An Egyptian helped us against the shepherds; he even drew water for us and watered the flock." ²⁰ He said to his daughters, "Where is he? Why did you leave the man? Invite him to break bread." ²¹ Moses agreed to stay with the man, and he gave Moses his daughter Zipporah in marriage. ²² She bore a son, and he named him Gershom; for he said, "I have been an alien residing in a foreign land."

Devotional

My parents' home is situated on a flood plain. Nestled neatly beside the West Fork River, cradled in a shallow valley, almost yearly the flood waters would come, invade our home, ravage the roads and newly sown fields, damaging buildings, equipment, and occasionally the lives of our animals. Our parents would try their best to keep us from swimming in it, because flood currents are strong and dangerous and the waters carried chemicals from fertilizers and pesticides, not to mention bull snakes and other unsavory critters. So it is no stretch of my imagination for water to represent death.

Yet in the midst of drowning in the death of sin, Jesus, like the Pharoah's daughter, draws us out of the water. Jesus reaches out his pierced hands and pulls us into life.

Prayer

I will praise you, My God, for you have not forsaken me. I will praise you because you came and bore my sin on the cross. You have lifted me out of the dark waters into your life and light. Amen.