

Lenten Devotional March 19, 2018

Scripture

Exodus 4:10-20, 27-31

¹⁰But Moses said to the LORD, "O my Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor even now that you have spoken to your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue." ¹¹Then the LORD said to him, "Who gives speech to mortals? Who makes them mute or deaf, seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD? ¹²Now go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you are to speak." ¹³But he said, "O my Lord, please send someone else." ¹⁴Then the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses and he said, "What of your brother Aaron, the Levite? I know that he can speak fluently; even now he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you his heart will be glad. ¹⁵You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth; and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and will teach you what you shall do. ¹⁶He indeed shall speak for you to the people; he shall serve as a mouth for you, and you shall serve as God for him. ¹⁷Take in your hand this staff, with which you shall perform the signs." ¹⁸Moses went back to his father-in-law Jethro and said to him, "Please let me go back to my kindred in Egypt and see whether they are still living." And Jethro said to Moses, "Go in peace." ¹⁹The LORD said to Moses in Midian, "Go back to Egypt; for all those who were seeking your life are dead." ²⁰So Moses took his wife and his sons, put them on a donkey and went back to the land of Egypt; and Moses carried the staff of God in his hand. ²¹And the LORD said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt, see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders that I have put in your power; but I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go. ²²Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD: Israel is my firstborn son. ²³I said to you, "Let my son go that he may worship me." But you refused to let him go; now I will kill your firstborn son.'" ²⁴On the way, at a place where they spent the night, the LORD met him and tried to kill him. ²⁵But Zipporah took a flint and cut off her son's foreskin, and touched Moses' feet with it, and said, "Truly you are a bridegroom of blood to me!" ²⁶So he let him alone. It was then she said, "A bridegroom of blood by circumcision." ²⁷The LORD said to Aaron, "Go into the wilderness to meet Moses." So he went; and he met him at the mountain of God and kissed him. ²⁸Moses told Aaron all the words of the LORD with which he had sent him, and all the signs with which he had charged him. ²⁹Then Moses and Aaron went and assembled all the elders of the Israelites. ³⁰Aaron spoke all the words that the LORD had spoken to Moses, and performed the signs in the sight of the people. ³¹The people believed; and when they heard that the LORD had given heed to the Israelites and that he had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped.

Devotional

The Rev. Erin Davenport '05, Director of the Miller Summer Youth Institute

Grace is a strange thing. Here in this story Moses seems to be on the way to the wrath of God. Refusing God's call on his life, he makes excuses for all the things he is unable to do. When the Lord speaks to Moses and promises to supply all that he needs, Moses still refuses. God is angry, and rightly so.

This is our daily walk with God, isn't it? God calls us; we make excuses. God tells us that all our needs will be met and that we are not alone; we still refuse. God is angry, and rightly so.

But Moses' story, like ours, does not end with God's anger. God, for some reason (which is beyond me), listens to us mere mortals. The Lord of all listens to Moses and gives him what he wants. God forgives Moses and gives him Aaron as his mouthpiece. How often is that true of us as well? How often does the Lord of all listen to us and let us off the hook? Daily.

Daily we refuse the grace and goodness and love of God in Jesus Christ. And daily God gives it to us again. Moses did nothing right to deserve God's listening ear. Yet God listened. God listens to us as well, this day, and every day, in the fullness of grace we do not deserve.

Prayer

Thank you for grace, O God. Thank you that though I so often refuse the grace that is extended to me in Jesus, your love extends to me with each breath. Thank you that your anger is replaced by love because of the work of your Son, my Savior. Amen.