**Small Group notes – 13 Sept 2020**

Death on the Nile and desert-dwelling - Exodus 2:11-25

**Welcome**

What is the most unusual place you have ever lived, spent the night or visited?

**Word: Death on the Nile and desert-dwelling - Exodus 2:11-25**

Something was stirring in Moses' heart and his Spirit. He was forty years old when he made his decision to help his people. He had heard about and seen with his very own eyes the oppression of his people, and he felt compelled to come to their rescue. He kills an Egyptian slave master who was assaulting a Hebrew slave, and he buries his body in the sand. The very next day, he sees two Hebrew slaves fighting and intervenes. To his surprise, they say who made you judge and ruler over us? Are you going to kill us like you killed the Egyptian? Moses flees to Midian, where he spends 40 years in the wilderness looking after sheep.
So what went so wrong and what can we learn from Moses life at this time?

**His way – His will.**

Moses rushed headlong into his plan without inquiring of the Lord. We often fail when we attempt to do Gods work in our strength and wisdom. Moses was both well educated and a strong military leader. 1 Corinthians reminds us that God loves to use the foolish things of the world to shame the wise and the weak things to shame the strong.

**• His timing**

It was both the wrong action and the wrong time. Timing is everything – we can even do the right thing but at the wrong time and miss it. Moses wasn't ready - The people weren't prepared Their hearts weren't respective (who made you ruler and judge over us?)

What should encourage us about Moses story?

**• God uses imperfect people to fulfil his plans**.

Fortunately for us, God is in the business of using people who often made mistakes. The Bible is full of them. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, the disciples.

**• Our failures and mistakes are not fatal.**

Failure should be our teacher, not our undertaker. Failure is not defeating just delay.

*“Success is not final, and failure is not fatal; it is the courage to continue that counts.” –* Winston Churchill

**• The desert experience may be an uncomfortable place, but it can be a life-changing experience.**

After years of being served in the palace courts and surrounded by people and servants pampering him, Moses embraces a life of service and obscurity. For 40 years he works and serves faithfully looking after his father -in - laws sheep. It was in the desert place that God was preparing him to move into his call. He was unlearning all the unhelpful things learned as a young man. Moses was learning humility, faithfulness in the small everyday things. He was going to learn what it meant to trust and depend on God and not just rely on his intellect and resources.

**• God knows our pain and is moved to act.**

Verse 23-25 of the passage tells us that God’s people cried out to him and God heard their cries, and he moves forward to the next step in the miracle rescue.

**Questions**

* Moses sensed God was calling him to help his people. How do you discern what God wants you to do or what he wants you to be involved in?
* When Moses witnesses the oppression of his people, how does he respond? Was he right or wrong to respond as he did? Exodus 2:11-13
* Pharaoh's daughter brought up Moses. How do you think she felt when he fled as a murderer?
* How do you think Moses feels after he flees Egypt, leaving behind his natural family and his adopted family?
* Have you ever failed at something God asked you to do? What happened?
* What is the difference between calling and commissioning?
* What did Moses learn during his 40yrs in the desert?
* Have you ever gone through a desert experience? What did you learn?
* Why does God sometimes seem to take so long to respond to the prayers of his people? Exodus 2:23-25
* How do you deal with delayed answers to prayers?

**Reminders**

**Midweek reflections** start at the NMBC Premises on:
Wednesday 23 Sept at 12.30pm and repeat at 8pm.

The NMBC 10.30am Sunday Zoom service will require a Password which is 6912 from the 20 September onwards.