

Easter 2010

Today we start a new series on Exodus. Having studied Genesis last year we now roll our sleeves up for 'Walking as God's people'. The dreams and promises of Genesis and the walk of faith of Abraham has turned into the nightmare of the Israelites being enslaved by Egypt.

Exodus starts with the hope of Israel precariously floating down the river in a basket. A grown man? No a little baby – a future model for the Christ child being born in a manger. The baby Moses becomes a prince, an insurrectionist and then an itinerant shepherd in the desert. It is into this bleak setting that the presence of God is made known through the burning bush that is not itself consumed. As Moses stands bare foot on holy ground we realise that nothing will ever be the same again. A Holy God takes sides against the Egyptians the awesome Passover takes place and in one act the people of Israel are released from captivity, plunder the Egyptians and see the most extraordinary miracle as they become the people of the Promised Land! So it all ends happily ever after then . . .well is humankind's story ever so simple. The children of God grow up in the desert and under their stammering Leaders guidance they walk with God and learn and fail at being a Holy people.

So how is this relevant today, Colchester in 2010 and the various challenges of life?

We care about Jesus and Exodus is a key part of the Bible that Jesus would have read. The very act of Passover becomes a tradition that Jesus then replaces with himself as the Passover lamb at the last Supper – our Holy Communion. The other challenge for any people of faith is how to walk in faith with a Holy God whether we are talking about 4,000 years ago or today. The same eternal God never changes and we are called to be his faithful children. May God bless us as we learn to walk as God's people in Colchester.

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