

still waters

home church studies

Psalms 105:1-6, 23-26 [Worship]

1 O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. 2 Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works. 3 Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice. 4 Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually. 5 Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered, 6 O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

23 Then Israel came to Egypt; Jacob lived as an alien in the land of Ham. 24 And the LORD made his people very fruitful, and made them stronger than their foes, 25 whose hearts he then turned to hate his people, to deal craftily with his servants. 26 He sent his servant Moses, and Aaron whom he had chosen.

Consider:

[Think & Pray...]

God's fiery words make plain the Creator's preferential option for the poor and suffering: "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters....I have come down to deliver them...to a land flowing with milk and honey" (Exodus 3:7-8). God calls Moses to lead the people to freedom, wholeness, and a multi-layered peace: shalom.

Here is the spiritual-political tradition in which Paul can stand and proclaim the vision of Jesus: "[E]xtend hospitality to strangers"; "Bless those who persecute you"; "Do not repay anyone evil for evil"; "If your enemies are hungry, feed them";

and "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:13-21). Paul exhorts in the tradition of God speaking to Moses through a burning bush.

The liberation wrought by a Moses or a Paul never comes without social struggle and personal suffering. Jesus rebukes Peter for his enormous miscalculation that suffering would not be required (Matthew 16:23).

Blessing those who persecute? Feeding our enemies? Trusting God and not nuclear gods for deliverance? It will come with the renewal of our minds, the redemption of our dreams, and the consuming voice of God in our ears. One day, a change will come. - Robert Roth



[The Scripture]

Romans 12.9-21

9 Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; 10 Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. 18 If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." 20 No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.