

Moses is a prefigurement of Christ. His very name, 'I drew him out of the water' foreshadows the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River. When Jesus arises from the Jordan, the voice of God the Father speaks, this is "my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased" (Lk 3:22). Moses will hear the voice of God when he approaches the burning bush, and the Lord explains, "I AM" (Ex 3:14).

Moses has two mothers, his natural mother who sacrifices her son that he may live. And Pharaoh's daughter who recognizes the sanctity of life and places it over and above the order of her father to destroy life. While Jesus has only has one mother, Mary, who will stand by her son as he offers his life in sacrifice for our salvation, Jesus has two fathers. His heavenly Father will ask him to lay down his life for our salvation of mankind... and Joseph, the husband of Mary, will guide him and teach him and shape him in his faith.

So enraged is Moses at the injustice and cruelty of slavery that he takes the life of an Egyptian. Later when Moses is called to lead God's chosen people out of slavery, the angel of death will take many more lives for all of the Egyptian families who do not have their doorposts marked with the blood of a lamb in the sign of the cross. Jesus is passionate about slavery to sin. Rather than take the life of his enemies, he will lay down his own life. Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world by the shedding of his own blood on the cross.

Moses is not perfect. God is able to see beyond the sin and call him back to holiness. Aside from the immaculately conceived Mary, God would have no one to work with if he chose faultless people. What a blessing for us. He sees beyond our sins and calls us to holiness.

Moses is afraid and hides. Jesus teaches, "There is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known" (Lk 12:2). We cannot hide our sins from God, but we can confess them and find forgiveness. Jesus teaches, "I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body but after that can do no more" (12:4). We need not fear man, but we must have a reverence and respect for God who will judge us justly.

Moses finds redemption in Midian where he stands up to injustice and chases away the bad shepherds who threaten Jethro's daughters. Jesus will contend with bad shepherds as well when he challenges the Pharisees and scribes who lay down heavy burdens on those for whom they have pastoral care. Moses watered the flock. Jesus will feed the flock with loaves and fish.

Moses is drawn to the mountain of God, Horeb, where he encounters God in the burning bush. Time and again, Jesus will go off in prayer to a mountain to pray to his father. God responds to the cry of the Israelites and sends Moses to Pharaoh to help liberate the Hebrews from captivity. Moses will lead his people out of slavery as they cross through the dry land of the Red Sea and begin a journey to the Promised Land. In due time, Jesus will help liberate all of humanity from slavery to sin. He will break the chains of sin and death leading humanity to the Promised Land of everlasting life.

It is helpful to draw comparisons between Moses and Jesus. As he reached out to Moses, God calls to us as well. Each person has a unique calling from God, a vocation. We are drawn out of the water in baptism. We have two mothers, our mother by blood, and the Virgin Mother who calls us to follow her son, Jesus. God wants us to respond to the injustice of this world with a righteous anger that seeks peace through social justice. God loves us for who we are with all of our faults and failures. If we allow him to heal us, he can use that fault to help others. God continually reaches out to us to draw us into a closer more intimate relationship. This is a foreshadowing of heaven where God desires to share his divinity with us.

"Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live" (Ps 69:33).