

Third Sunday of Lent

March 11, 2007

Ex 3: 1-8a, 13-15; 1 Cor 10: 1-6, 10-12; Lk 13: 1-9

Homilist: *Sister Carolyn McCormack, OP*

This week's Scriptures are laden with themes of redemption.

First, Moses, enthralled with the burning bush, receives the assignment of a lifetime. Paul, recalling the Exodus, reminds his readers that we must link Old and New Testaments in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, encouraging all to be certain they do not succumb to the grumbling of the Israelites. Finally, the image of Jesus, the patient, petitioning gardener, who continues to protect us, tending us and nurturing us, while giving us endless opportunities to come to new life. And through them all, woven like a strand of bright fabric, "The Lord is kind and merciful".

A number of thoughtful questions are stirring in me as I reflect on these readings for the Third Sunday of Lent. I want to share them with you because they affirm, in a different genre, the power of the Scriptures to speak to our lives:

- Am I attentive to remarkable moments in my life that might reveal God's presence in a unique and different way?
- What is the name I give my God? When and where do I call on God?
- How might God be calling me for a mission I am resisting?
- How can I be God's instrument for creating EXODUS in my world?
- Where is my holy ground? When do I realize I must take off my shoes and be fully present?
- What do I do to ensure that God is always in my memory?
- How do I capture my past experiences and let them remind and guide me to be fully who I am today?
- How do I find confidence in Jesus my spiritual rock who gives me living water to drink?
- How do I judge others in the light of disasters that come their way?
- What are the barren fig trees in my life?
- Can I release others from paying what is their "just due"; can I give them extra time to produce what is in them to give?
- Can I love and tenderly care for others, helping them move from barrenness to fruitfulness?
- Can I give thanks for this day, this time, this Lent to begin again to use God's grace to bear more fruit in my life?
- Can I turn the habits of my old life into new and healthy practices?
- Can I celebrate my God, who is kind and merciful by imitating God's loving kindness and mercy in my everyday life?

May we give God thanks for another year to use this season of Lent to become more and more aware that, "but for the grace of God", our lives would be fruitless and barren. Lent is part of the "one more year" during which we can apply God's assistance to bring us more and more into life.

Let us celebrate our God who truly is so kind and merciful!