



Grain

“The point is to live everything. Live the questions now.”

–Rainer Maria Rilke

Submitted by Vernita Kennen, Roseville, MN

Field

8 Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. 9 He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. 10 Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land..." 15 The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, 16 "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." 17 But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live...2:1 Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. 2 The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. 3 When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. 4 His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. Exodus 1:8-10; 15-17 2:1-4

Thoughts

Many years ago, when I served a church as a solo pastor, I think it was challenging for my new parishioners who lost loved ones during my first months to have me do the funerals. We didn't have a history together. And shortly after I left that parish, a couple people contacted me to do funerals for their family members who had passed away. Of course, I didn't return, but it's understandable to want to connect with people who know us. New pastors, supervisors, and other leaders can acknowledge and honor what they don't understand and show they're trying to get to know their new communities. That can go a long way.

A new Pharaoh who didn't know Joseph arose. He didn't realize Joseph was a wonderful man transparent in his dreams or what he had done to help sustain Egypt. He didn't show interest in the joys, struggles, and love of the Hebrew people. To the new leader, the Hebrews were invisible and without a significant history. He even portrayed them as being less than human. The midwives, Shiphrah and Puah, and the mother and sister of the baby (Moses) resisted the Pharaoh's message. God was involved with them while Moses' mother desperately resorted to floating him down a river to save his life. The women acted while uncertain about what would happen next or even being aware that they would one day literally be wandering in the wilderness.

The disorientation in wondering what is next during the pandemic comes to mind. When is the exact ending date or even month? We ask for the grace to hold tensions between living in the reality of our challenges and realizing our present and future hope. We also recall the wilderness of people in refugee camps and detention centers and all who are without safe homes at this time. Our responses are rooted in our relationship with a God who knows us. Happy Monday!

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy Crane