

Thought for the week

Too big a task?

On an ordinary day in the life of Moses the shepherd, he encounters God and his life changes. God draws Moses to him step by step. The flaming bush isn't too uncommon in the desert, but the fact that it was not burning up drew Moses' attention. God calling his name drew him closer to this place, and finally God revealed himself. God built up his call to Moses bit by bit, which would be echoed in the stages of the task he was about to be asked to do. The task God has for Moses, to free the hundreds of Israelites from the oppression of the Egyptians, seems more than Moses is capable of. Moses sees the barriers in his mind as insurmountable. For starters, Pharaoh was unlikely to release his workforce, the people he controlled, just because he was asked. To make matters worse, Moses had a history with him that had not ended well. Would Pharaoh even listen to Moses?

Moses suggested to God that he was not the best candidate for the task. The Israelites did not know or trust him, but God had a plan, and Moses was the man. He gave Moses the words to say, words that would reassure the Israelites that Moses was God's messenger and they should trust him. It is almost as if God knew Moses would question his suitability, so he assured Moses that he would be with him and lead and enable Moses step by step.

Where do we see insurmountable problems or tasks? Looking around our community and around our world, there seem to be huge problems, and we cannot work out how things can change, the part we can play or how we can even begin to make a difference. Let's be encouraged by God's strategy with Moses. Moses identified the problems he would face, and God helped him to see them as steps on the way to completing the task. When broken down into steps or stages, sometimes a task can look less daunting or impossible. God promised to be with Moses every step of the way, supporting him and encouraging him. God gave Moses the words to say and the reassurance that those hearing the words would themselves be reassured.

Perhaps we, like Moses, can express our doubts, fears, and feelings of inadequacy to God as we discuss the tasks and problems we face personally and in our world. This is the first step towards their resolution. Sometimes we can see the steps to take to tackle the task, but sometimes the solution may involve us taking the first step and trusting God for the second step. However the steps are revealed, we can find encouragement when we take one step at a time, recognising and celebrating each small step of progress. Moses was a seemingly unlikely candidate for the task God had for him, and we know that he went on to rescue a nation! Maybe we can start on a smaller scale and hold before God the tasks before us, trusting, like Moses, that God will be with us, enable us and show us the way one step at a time.