Sermon: (Exodus 5.1-9)

There are times when we are like the 3 main human characters in this story: Pharaoh, Moses and The People of God.

[1] Pharaoh

Pharaoh had something to gain by letting the People of God go – he could reclaim the region of Goshem, and get rid of an internal enemy.

And a lot to lose – cheap slave labour, someone to blame for bad stuff, and lose face.

Are we like Pharaoh? Are we at times stubborn, uncaring, trying to bargain with God?

[2] People of God

After a long wait the People of God still need justice and rescue. They welcome Moses and Aaron, seeing a glimmer of hope. Yet when things went wrong they complain to Moses (see Ex 5.20f).

Are we like the People of God? Are we in need, putting the blame in the wrong place and moaning when things do not work out to our satisfaction?

[3] Moses

Moses is reluctant, but nevertheless works for justice. After a first meeting with Pharaoh justice slips further away (again see Ex 5.20f), and the oppressed become angry with him. He persists though and gets there in the end.

Is this like us? Do we call out for justice for the oppressed, even if reluctant? Can we take the blame when our efforts backfire? Are we persistent?

When like Pharaoh (often), we need God’s point of view. When like the People of God (often), need hope, sometimes crying out without the answers. When like Moses (rarely) we need thick skin, and persistence.