

Jan 18 – Bible Story – Exodus (2:11, 12, 15; 3:1-10; 4:18, 19)/Moses

Movie – Lion King

Theme – “Remember who you are”

*The Lion King* earned \$422,783,777 in North America and \$564,700,000 in other territories for a worldwide total of \$987,483,777. It is the 20th highest-grossing film, the third-highest-grossing animated film of all time worldwide and the second highest-grossing film of Walt Disney Animation Studios (behind *Frozen*). It opened on June 24, 1994. *The Lion King* garnered two Academy Awards for its achievement in music and the Golden Globe Award for Best Motion Picture – Musical or Comedy. The film has led to many derived works, such as a Broadway adaptation, two direct-to-video follow-ups—the sequel *The Lion King II: Simba's Pride* (1998) and the prequel/parallel *The Lion King 1½* (2004)—and two spin-off series *Timon and Pumbaa* and *The Lion Guard*.

Who has seen it?

For those of you who haven't seen it... where have you been? Here's the plot: A young lion prince is born in Africa, thus making his uncle Scar the second in line to the throne. Scar plots with the hyenas to kill King Mufasa and Prince Simba, thus making himself King. The King is killed and Simba is led to believe by Scar that it was his fault, and so flees the kingdom in shame. After years of exile he is persuaded to return home to overthrow the usurper and claim the kingdom as his own thus completing the "Circle of Life".

Now this reminds me of another story... This reminds me of the story of Moses...

When the Book of Exodus begins, the Hebrews were living in Egypt had been put into slavery. The Hebrew slaves had been reproducing so fast that the king felt threatened by a potential revolt against his authority. He gave orders that no more male Hebrew children should be allowed to live. To save the infant Moses, his mother made a little boat of papyrus, placed Moses in the vessel, and sent him floating among the reeds on the bank of the Nile River. By God's providence, Moses-- the child of a Hebrew slave-- was found and adopted by an Egyptian princess, the daughter of the Pharaoh himself. He was raised in the royal court as a prince of Egypt. At the same time the Lord determined that Moses should be taught in his earliest years by his own mother. This meant that he was founded in the faith of his fathers, although he was reared as an Egyptian. Moses became angry at an Egyptian taskmaster who was beating a Hebrew slave; he killed the Egyptian and buried him in the sand (Ex. 2:12). When this became known, however, he feared for his own life and fled from Egypt to the desert land of Midian where he married a daughter of Jethro in agreement to tend Jethro's flocks. After about 40 years, God spoke to Moses from a bush that was on fire but didn't burn. God sent Moses back to Egypt to lead the Hebrews out of slavery, (many plagues and a Red Sea later) and into the land promised to Abraham.

Let's look at the parallels...

- Son of the king
- Killed (or made to believe he killed) someone
- Fled for fear of repercussions
- Wandered the desert until found people/animals to stay with
- Lived there rather comfortably for many years
- Was approached by someone (God or Rafiki) and told to REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE
- Came back to land of origin

- Freed people/animals from a corrupt king who was holding them as slaves

So what does The Lion King have to do with us? The story itself is based on Shakespeare's Hamlet, but also heavily influenced by the Biblical stories of Joseph & Moses. What does these stories tell us? What does it remind us?

It reminds us to remember who you are. Who are we? Who are you? Who am I? Throughout our lives, we've all had to discover who we are. Growing up, we tested our limits, maybe even pushed some boundaries. College was our chance to really break free. Sometimes that was good, and other times not so much. Maybe we've found ourselves in situations that might not be the best or the healthiest...

But through it all, we were finding out who we are as a person. We were trying to find out who we are as Christians. Maybe we were following the example of parents or others. Maybe we were following the example of Christ. It can be scary to try and follow someone's footsteps... especially when those footsteps are big. That's the way many people approach their faith. They try to be someone (or like someone) and they forget who they are...

God whispers to Moses. REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE. You are an Israelite. You are a child of God. And that God has a job for him... to save his people.

Rafiki finds Simba and tells him, REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE. You are the son of the king... the true heir to the throne... You are the king.

And God talks to us now, REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE. Allow God to remind you of who you are... You are God's child. God always is with you. Remember who you are... Remember whose you are...

So, remember who you are... Remember every day!

So the question is, how will we remember? When you leave this place, this room... I am well aware that my message, the songs, and the intentional awareness of God may be left here. So how can we remember who and whose we are if we can't always remember where we put our keys?

I want us to think outside the denominational box for a moment. There is an old Lutheran tradition that involves water. Lutheran's use water, any water to make the sign of the cross. They use water every day to remember they are baptized children of God, marked with the cross of Christ forever, and sealed with the Holy Spirit.

So we can adopt a little Lutheranism too... I need a few volunteers...

As we shower, bath, wash our face, we can remember that we are children of God. So any water, the water that is here in the font, the sink, when we take a drink, and even when it rains... we can use that to remember WHOSE we are... we are children of God.

God's voice is calling to us (Much like the burning bush or Rafiki). It is saying, look and really see.... You are mine... Flaws and all... Fears and all... You are mine... You are my child.

So this week, this month, this year... Remember WHO you are. Remember WHOSE you are. You belong to God. You are a child of God. You are loved.