

THE TENT OF MEETING: TUESDAY, 27 JULY 2021, WEEK 17, YEAR I.

EXODUS 33:7-11, 34:5-9,28; PSALM 103; MATTHEW 13:36-43

Moses is one of my greatest heroes in the Bible. He is my hero not because he was perfect (he was far from it), not because of his leadership ability, not really because of the miracles God performed through him but because of his intimacy with God.

The first reading of today testifies to this. He set a tent outside of the camp, there he went regularly to have a meeting with the Lord, he went there to seek the face of the Lord, to renew strength. Moses habitually set time aside to be in God's presence. This was his regular discipline and his priority. He has a passion for God's presence.

We have a lot to learn from Moses.

Some time ago, I went to bless a house and while the occupants were taking me around the rooms for sprinkling, they took me to a room and they said "Fr, this is our prayer room." I was very impressed, I very rarely see that. I have seen toy room, games room, exercise/gym room, office-room, stores, visitor's room but many of us do not have any special prayer room or even an altar reminding us of God's presence or any specific location in the house specifically designated for prayers.

Dear friends, we all need quiet places where we can withdraw and spend uninterrupted time with God.

Some people have this prayer room, chapel or altar but it is never visited or accorded any reverence.

We must make it a discipline and priority to spend time with God whether very early in the morning or in the day or at night. God also loves to have a time of bonding with us.

Whenever Moses entered this tent of meeting, the glory of God came like a cloud. When we begin to set time aside to be in God's presence in a quiet place, the glory of God becomes more visible in our lives, we receive strength, vision, direction and like Moses, we draw other people to seek God's face and presence.

Someone may think, "Well, I wish I am like Moses, I wish I could have a place to meet with the Lord, I wish I could have a room or a garden where I can have a section converted to a place of meeting. Well, the good news is that we are also the temple of God and the Spirit of God dwells in us. Put properly, God is in each of us through His Spirit, our heart is also a tent of meeting, what an amazing presence but sadly this makes no difference to many of us as we have no time, discipline or passion to deepen the intimacy.

The Gospel tells us that the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. When we seek intimacy with God, we are transformed, we grow in virtues, we begin to shine even here on earth. Also, it is only when we have passion for His presence on earth that we can hope for His presence in eternity.