

John Sampson

“Aha!”

Text: Exodus 3:1 – 10

Preached at KVCC

June 14, 2020

Will you pray with me?

God, may the words of my mouth, and the meditations of all of our hearts, be acceptable to you, our rock, and our redeemer.

Amen.

Aha!

I’m not even sure this is a word; it’s more like a sound.

When we say it it doesn’t come from our lips; it comes from deeper in the chest.

Aha!

It gets our bodies involved.

Say it with me. Aha! Aha!

It’s great. Now we are an aha! people.

We’re experiencing together the sound we make when we have a breakthrough in our understanding of something, when we see something in a totally new light, or see something completely new that we have never seen before.

Aha!

This is the sound that I know Moses makes in our story this morning. You have to read between the lines to hear it, but it’s right there. Because our story is about the moment when Moses sees something he knows so intimately, something he knows everything about, but now he sees it in a completely new light.

Aha!

Moses the prince of Egypt knows all about Egypt from the perspective of the rulers, and the privileged, of those who call themselves citizens. Moses the Hebrew knows all about what it means to be the object of inhumanity, the object of state sanctioned violence and enslavement. He knows about the hardness of Egypt’s heart, and he knows about the suffering of the Hebrew people.

And he's living in exile disconnected from the story of his people, and of his peoples. And he could stay there and tend his sheep, and not get involved, until one day it all changes and he says

Aha!

Because all the pieces of his life reconfigure in a moment, everything he has already known is recalibrated and it's as if a new flame burns in him, a flame that burns, but does not consume. And he is changed forever because in this moment, when he sees everything new, he commits to the liberation of his people. He comes down off of the mountain and a new path opens before him, and he walks it.

Aha!

We are in an important moment in our nation's history. We are at a point of reckoning about our racist past, and how that past continues to haunt us today. For many of us seeing George Floyd be slowly killed by a police officer who was kneeling on his neck was an Aha! moment for us. It has helped us see a history we have all known, facts that have been right before our eyes the whole time, in a new and different light. It has helped many of us finally hear in our hearts what our black and brown brothers and sisters have been telling us for hundreds of years.

Aha!

Moving forward I hope no one will have to die again for us to awaken from the inertia of our nation's racist past. I hope we can continue to have Aha! moments that lead us, just like Moses, to commit to works of liberation and freedom. It is my prayer that we will make a covenant with ourselves to do the learning and the interior work that leads us to do more to make this country a land where all people have equal access to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Last week I shared with you that there have been Aha! moments in our Tuesday night book discussion group. Aha! moments when as we read the works of James Cone, and Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King, Jr., and Desmond Tutu we have been able to see a story we already know, that we already live, in new and completely different ways.

And so today I don't want you to take my word for it. I want you to hear from some of the members of the group about their own Aha! moments. So, I invite Susie Allen to start us off, and share how what we have read has made an important difference in her own understanding.

[Susie]

[Barbara]

Amen.