

# A Seasonal All Age Worship Service

(SAAW003)

## Maundy Thursday

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## MAUNDY THURSDAY

### Service Aim:

To re-tell the events of the Last Supper up to the arrest of Jesus. The service is about ninety minutes in length and works best as an evening service, but could be adapted for a morning service.

### Biblical Reference(s):

Luke 22:14-16, Matthew 26:21-25, 31-35, 36-46, Luke 22:24-27, John 13:2-17, 34-35

### Outline of Service:

#### Preparation:

Welcome: Opening prayer  
 Reading 1: Luke 22:14-16  
 Songs: Songs of preparation (See Appendix 1)

#### Passover meal - Thanksgiving

Link: Explaining the Passover  
 Interviews: With Israelite slave and Miriam  
 Food: Pitta pockets with lamb served in napkins with Film "Passover song."  
 Songs: Songs celebrating God's goodness (See Appendix 1)

#### Confession Preparation

Reading 2: Matthew 26:21-25 Jesus predicts Judas' betrayal with chains  
 Meditation: Thinking about how we betray the Lord  
 Reading 3: Matthew 26:31-35 Jesus predicts Peter's denial  
 Meditation: Thinking about where we have denied the Lord  
 Reading 4: Luke 22:-24-27 Who is the greatest dispute amongst the disciples  
 Meditation: Thinking about our pride  
 Confession: Confession Litany and drop chains at the foot of the cross  
 Song: Song about the Lord's grace (See Appendix 1)

#### Serving

Film clip: Jesus washes His disciples feet (John 13:2-17)  
 Talk: Serving  
 Prayer: A prayer of response  
 Hand washing: With music

#### Loving one another

Reading 5: John 13:34-35 Love one another  
 The Peace: Sharing peace and words of encouragement.  
 Film Song: "New Covenant Song" preparing people to receive Communion

#### Holy Communion

Eucharistic prayer:  
 Prayers: Litany & Lord's Prayer

#### The Mount of Olives:

Leave church: Sing unaccompanied: Stay with me (Taize) (See Appendix 1)  
 Reading 6: Matthew 26:36-46 Gethsemane  
 Drama: "The Arrest"

## Notes for the service:

General notes and instructions for the service are in black font.

**Prayers or responses said by the congregation together are in bold purple font.**

The full script of a talk or other activity is in purple font.

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## Welcome:

Welcome everyone to the service. Explain that the service will re-tell the events of the Last Supper up to the arrest of Jesus using Bible passages, simple food, drama, film, music and the celebration of Holy Communion together. Remind people that the service of Holy Communion has its roots firmly in the Passover meal and is the fulfilment of it, so the simple food served later will remind everyone of the Passover meal.

## Opening Prayer:

You may choose to open the service with:

- an informal prayer
- a prayer from a book like “New Patterns for Worship”<sup>1</sup> that the congregation can say together,
- or the following prayer that the congregation can say together:

**Lord we have gathered together in your name to remember the events of the first Maundy Thursday.**

**Draw us closer to you,**

**Inspire us with your love,**

**And fill us with your Spirit,**

**That we might leave here ready to serve you with our lives.**

**In Jesus’ name. Amen.**

## Reading 1:

The first reading is Luke 22:14-16 and can be read by a child, young person or adult in a modern version of the Bible.

## Songs:

Songs of preparation as per Appendix 1

## Link:

The Passover meal that Jesus celebrated with his disciples remembered the time when the Israelites were enslaved in Egypt by the Pharaohs, and then the wonderful way in which God delivered them.

- Tonight we have a slave from that time who has come to tell us what it was like before God delivered them and we also have Miriam, Moses’ sister who has come to tell us about what God did.

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<sup>1</sup> Church House Publishing – ISBN 0715120603  
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## Interviews:

The interviews can be found in Appendix 2. The aim of the interviews is to show the harsh treatment that the Israelites suffered at the hands of the Egyptian pharaoh in Exodus chapter 1 and then how God rescued the Israelites from their slavery using a man called Moses.

The interviews are staged like “News-night” and work well if the presenter is dressed in modern dress and the slave and Miriam dressed in clothes suitable for the time they lived in. The Interviewer, slave and Miriam could all have their scripts attached to clipboards, so they don’t need to learn the lines.

## Food:

If possible, serve each person with a small pitta bread filled with shredded lamb. Introduce the food by saying something like:

When God prepared to rescue the Israelites from captivity in Egypt, he used blood as the symbol of life.

- The blood of the sacrificial Passover lamb saved the Israelites from death.
- As part of the remembering of these events, the Passover celebration meal that Jesus shared with his disciples included roasted lamb and bread without yeast.
- So to help us remember the last supper that Jesus ate with his disciples, we have lamb and pittas for you now.

While people are eating you might like to play either some music or the “Passover song”<sup>2</sup> (by Sean Carter and Caroline Cobb)

## Songs:

Songs celebrating God’s goodness as per Appendix 1

Introduce theme by saying something like:

The Passover remembers all the wonders God did to lead His people from the bondage of slavery in Egypt to freedom.

- On this night we remember too that Jesus is the One who leads us out of the bondage of sin and into freedom, so let’s celebrate His goodness as we sing together.

## Reading 2:

Before the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading you might like to use the following link:

During that evening Jesus spoke a number of times to his disciples

- Predicting that one would betray him,
- Another would deny him,
- And intervening in a heated dispute over which one of the disciples was the greatest.

As those disciples sinned, so do we.

- Jesus said *“I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin”* John 8:34

<sup>2</sup> “The Passover song” written by Sean Carter and Caroline Cobb © 2013, can be found on u-tube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CVowp0VnpHg>

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As a reminder that sin leads to slavery we are going to give you a piece of chain to hold as we spend time reflecting on our own sin,

- and where we need God to set us free in our lives.

Pass around pieces of chain. (You can buy simple chain at any hardware store. Give people a piece of chain that is 7-8 links long)

Hold your chain as you listen to the readings and meditations.

Reading 2 is Matthew 26:21-25 where Jesus predicts Judas' betrayal. It can be read by a child, young person or adult.

### **Meditation:**

As you hold your piece of chain ask the Lord to show you where you have *betrayed* Him;

- through your words, thoughts or in your actions, because you too are weak.
- Ask Him to forgive you. PAUSE

### **Reading 3:**

Reading 3 is Matthew 26:31-35 where Jesus predicts Peter's denial.

### **Meditation:**

As you hold your piece of chain ask the Lord to show you where you have *disowned* Him;

- through your words, thoughts or in your actions, because you too are weak.
- Ask Him to forgive you. PAUSE

### **Reading 4:**

Reading 4 is Luke 22:-24-27 where a "Who is the greatest" dispute arose amongst the disciples.

### **Meditation:**

As you hold your piece of chain ask the Lord to show you where you have become *proud or self-important* in your words, thoughts or in your actions, and where you want others to serve you.

- Ask Him to forgive you. PAUSE

### **Confession:**

Lead into a simple Confession prayer that the congregation can say together. You might like to use the following litany:

So let's confess our sins, which bind us up like chains, to the Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have failed you as did your first disciples. Please forgive us where we have *betrayed* you in our thoughts, words or actions. Lord have mercy, **Christ have mercy**

Please forgive us where we have *disowned* you in our thoughts, words or actions. We confess that there have been times when we have been afraid of people knowing that we belong to you.

Lord have mercy, **Christ have mercy**

Please forgive us where we have become *proud or self-important* in our thoughts, words or actions. We confess that we have often been self-absorbed, caring more about ourselves than about others.

Lord have mercy

**Christ have mercy. Amen.**

Follow this litany prayer with a prayer of Absolution. Invite people to come and drop their pieces of chain in a bucket at the foot of a cross as they symbolically trust Jesus to set them free from their sin.

### **Song:**

Song about the Lord's grace as per Appendix 1

### **Film clip:**

The film clip<sup>3</sup> is of Jesus washing His disciples' feet (John 13:2-17). It comes from the film: "Gospel of John – The life of Jesus"<sup>4</sup> Alternatively John 13:2-17 could be read.

### **Talk:**

What do you think makes a person truly great?

- We might say that a wonderful discovery or an amazing talent makes someone great.

Some people might say that status makes you truly great, so you have really made it when you have hit the celebrity scene or

- you might even be tempted to think that in this day and age true greatness is marked by how much you can earn and where you live,
- so the truly great people are the millionaires.

The idea of aspiring to greatness is not a new one,

- and as we heard earlier this evening the disciples had an argument over who was the greatest.

The world's values are thrown on their head as Jesus shows us what true greatness is all about.

- He does this through the symbolic action of washing the dirty smelly feet of his disciples on the eve of giving up His life.

Foot washing was normally the job of a servant, as it was the lowest job of all,

- however on this particular night, Jesus chose to do it.

What is amazing is that John tells us in verse 3: "*Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing and wrapped a towel around his waist.*"

<sup>3</sup> The film clip can be found at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=570kkSsg9Yg>

<sup>4</sup> The film "The Gospel of John – the life of Jesus" (narrated by Christopher Plummer) - The Visual Bible can be purchased from Amazon at [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)

Jesus knowing who He was didn't command His disciples to wash his feet,

- which after all would have been more appropriate, wouldn't it?

Instead, Jesus humbled himself and served them,

- doing the job that no-one else was willing to do.

This is a glorious picture of our God,

- The one who has all power and authority,
- who has created the heavens and the earth,
- and yet who is willing to lay aside his glory, putting on human nature in order to wash our feet.
- What humility, what love, what true greatness.

But Jesus didn't simply serve humankind through meeting basic needs.

- The extent of Jesus' serving of humankind is about to be revealed as we move on to a conversation Jesus has with Peter, which points to the most amazing act of service;
- the act of giving up His life on the cross for the sake of each man, woman and child.

In verse 6 Jesus comes to Simon Peter to wash his feet,

- and instead of allowing Jesus to do this for him,
- Simon Peter argues with Jesus and tells him not to.

Jesus responds to Peter by telling him that unless he washes Peter,

- Peter cannot be his follower and have fellowship with him.

All of a sudden another meaning is opening up before us, as Jesus tells Peter that there is a symbolic spiritual significance to what he is doing,

- that Peter cannot fully understand until He receives the Holy Spirit.

Through this conversation with Peter, Jesus is pointing to the fact that in order for men and women to have a relationship with Him,

- they need to be washed clean from the sin that separates them from the holiness of God.

Peter doesn't understand at all what Jesus is saying, so Jesus tells him that we all need two different kinds of washings.

- The first kind is a bath for those who are dirty all over.
- This is symbolic of the complete washing that we all need from our sin when we first come to the cross in repentance for our self-centred, God-rejecting lifestyles.

The second kind of washing is the foot washing

- Which is symbolic of the washing from the sins a believer occasionally commits.

Having washed all of his disciples' feet, Jesus then sat down to teach them.

- He told them that as they had been served, so they were to serve others.
- He gave them a pattern of servant-hood, which involved putting other people's needs before their own.

As followers of Jesus, we too have been called into this lifestyle of service, as we follow our Lord and Master, the servant King

- Paul says in his letter to the Romans: *"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true worship"* (Rom 12:1)

As we have been served by Jesus, most obviously by his sacrifice on the cross, so we are to go out and serve others.

Serving is the hallmark of authentic Christian life and is about walking in Jesus' self-sacrificial footsteps,

- putting other people's needs before our own, minute by minute, hour by hour, day by day.

In order to achieve a lifestyle of serving, we need to practice,

- which is why God gives us many different opportunities each day to serve.

One of the places he calls us to serve is in our families,

- Being willing to put the needs of other members of our family before our own,
- which may involve doing the jobs that no-one else wants to do.

God also calls us to serve one another in His church, and this is the place where we can gain a lot of practice in the lifestyle of servant-hood.

- The church is Christ's body here on earth and He wants us to meet one another's needs, which is very different from demanding our rights, or wanting our own way.

Many people will have served you in different ways this evening,

- They are wearing their towels like Jesus.
- What about you? Who are you serving?

Another place God calls us to serve is in His world, at the place where we work and spend most of our time.

- Are we known at work as people who are willing to go the extra mile?
- As people who really care about the needs of others?
- Our serving of others at work will bring glory to Jesus.

Jesus told his disciples in verse 17 of chapter 13 that they would be blessed if they served.

- The world tells us that we will be happy when we have all we want, and when others serve us.

Jesus turns this on its head and says that we will be fulfilled & happy when we learn to love others in the way he loves us, which is the lifestyle of self-sacrificial serving love.

When we learn to serve, we are on the path to true greatness,

So tonight as we look at Jesus washing His disciples' feet, we see

- the loving and humble nature of our God, who stoops down with love to serve His fallen creation.
- We see beyond the foot washing to the greatest act of serving ever in the cross, where we can all receive the cleansing from our sin that we need,
- And we hear Jesus calling us to a serving lifestyle that will enable us to become like Him.
- Let's go from here ready to offer our lives afresh to Him.

### **Prayer:**

Follow the talk with a simple prayer something like the following:

Lord Jesus we are amazed that you were willing to leave the glory of heaven to come to earth to give up your life for us.

**Give us the grace to serve you**

Lord Jesus you taught us that whatever we do for one of the least of our brothers or sisters, we do for you.

**Give us the grace to serve you**

Lord Jesus you lived a lifestyle of self-sacrificial love, reaching out with compassion to those in need.

**Give us the grace to serve you. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

### **Handwashing:**

Have a number of "hand-washing" stations around the room, where there is someone with a bowl of water and a towel ready to "wash" people's hands and dry them. So that this does not take too much time, estimate how many people will attend the service and ensure that you have one "hand-washing" station per 8 people. You might like to introduce the hand-washing by saying something like:

Shortly we will be celebrating Communion together.

- In preparation for that we are going to have our hands washed by someone who will serve you.
- There are a number of hand washing stations where you can go to.
- Once you have had your hands washed, come and sit down again in silence.

While the hand-washing is taking place you may like to play the song, "From heaven you came."<sup>5</sup> Alternatively your musicians could play and sing this.

<sup>5</sup> Graham Kendrick © 1983 Thankyou Music. You can find this song with visuals on YouTube here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8rh4xEvMVQQ>

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## Reading 5:

Reading 5 is John 13:34-35 where Jesus gives the disciples the command to “Love one another.”

## The Peace:

Lead into the sharing of the Peace by saying something like the following:

We are going to show an expression of our love for one another now as we share the Peace together. As you share the peace with each person, see if you can speak a few words of encouragement to build them up.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you

**And also with you**

Let's offer one another a sign of Peace and some words of encouragement.

## Film Song:

Prepare people to focus on Communion by saying something like:

We are going to move on now to see the fulfilment of the Passover in Jesus' death on the cross as we celebrate Communion together.

- Watch this as we prepare ourselves to receive Communion.

Play the Passover song called “New Covenant Song”<sup>6</sup> by Shira. Alternatively you may prefer to sing a hymn/song for example, “My song is love unknown” or “Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away”<sup>7</sup>

## Eucharistic Prayer:

Use whatever form of Eucharistic Prayer<sup>8</sup> is suitable for your church setting, or you may consecrate the bread and the wine using 1Corinthians 11:23-26.

Invite people to receive Communion and follow this with a post-Eucharistic Prayer.

## Prayers:

You may like to follow Communion with the Maundy Thursday Intercessions<sup>9</sup> or your own prayers. End the prayers with the Lord's Prayer

## Leave Church:

The final section of the service takes place outside so you may wish to say something like:

At the end of supper Jesus and His disciples left the room, and went out to the Garden of Gethsemane on the lower slopes of the Mount of Olives.

<sup>6</sup> The “New Covenant Song” by Shira can be found here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_HCBieuV-QU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_HCBieuV-QU)

<sup>7</sup> Keith and Kristyn Getty & Stuart Townend © 2007 Thankyou Music

<sup>8</sup> The Church of England's Eucharistic Prayers can be found here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-worship/worship/texts/common-worship-pdf-files.aspx>

<sup>9</sup> from Church of England's “Times and Seasons” – Passiontide material

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The final part of this Maundy Thursday event is going to take place outside.

- So if you would like to put on your coats and pick up your bags, and as we leave the church we are going to sing the Taize chant:
- “Stay with me, remain here with me, watch and pray, watch and pray”<sup>10</sup> words that our Lord spoke to his disciples. (Matthew 26:38, 41)

Walk people outside as they sing “Stay with me” as per Appendix 1, and gather in front of whoever is going to read the last reading.

### **Reading 6:**

Reading 6 is Matthew 26:36-46 Gethsemane.

The reader needs to be the Vicar, the main Minister / leader of the church for maximum dramatic impact. (When I first led this service, we had our Bishop doing the reading)

### **Drama:**

At the end of the reading, either policemen (if they are willing to be involved) or men in high viz jackets run in and “arrest” the person who has just read Reading 6 – ie the church leader. They shout something like, “That’s him – arrest him!” They then bundle the church leader into a police-car / van / other car and drive off.

The purpose of the drama is to engage the congregation with the shock that the first disciples would have felt as Jesus was arrested in the garden of Gethsemane.

Another leader then needs to tell people after a suitable silence that the service has ended, that the drama with the police was a “set-up” to help bring the Scripture to life and then send people home. This provides quite a stark ending to the service, but one that will hopefully promote thought and reflection on what really happened to Jesus.

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<sup>10</sup> The Taize chant is called “Stay with me.” The sheet music can be found here:

[http://www.hymnary.org/text/stay\\_with\\_me\\_remain\\_here\\_with\\_me](http://www.hymnary.org/text/stay_with_me_remain_here_with_me)

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## Appendix 1 - Ideas for Songs and Hymns:

### i) Songs of preparation. Ideas include:

- I believe in Jesus (Marc Nelson © 1987 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing)
- I cannot tell (William Fullerton)
- Jesus is King and I will extol Him (Wendy Churchill © 1982 Authentic Publishing)
- Jesus stand among us (Graham Kendrick © 1977 Thankyou Music)
- Light of the World (Tim Hughes © 2000 Thankyou Music)

### ii) Songs celebrating God's goodness. Ideas include:

- God is good (Graham Kendrick © 1985 Kingsway's Thankyou Music)
- Here is love vast as the ocean (William Rees)
- I know that my Redeemer lives (John Hartley & Chris Eaton © 2008 Thankyou Music)
- Jesus we celebrate your victory (John Gibson © 1987 Thankyou Music)
- Loved before the dawn of time (Stuart Townend & Andrew Small © 2007 Thankyou Music)
- Praise God from whom all blessings flow (Andy Piercy and Dave Clifton © 1993 IQ Music)
- Your love is amazing (Brenton Brown & Brian Doerksen © 2000 Vineyard Songs)

### iii) Song about the Lord's grace. Ideas include:

- Before the throne of God above (Charitie L.Bancroft)
- I stand amazed in the presence (Charles Gabriel)
- Jesus, lamb of God have mercy on us (Betty Pulkingham © 1974 Thankyou Music)
- Jesus You endured my pain (Phil Wickham © 2009 Seems like Music & Phil Wickham Music)
- Only by grace can we enter (Gerrit Gustafson © 1990 Integrity's Hosanna! Music/Sovereign Music UK)
- What can wash away my sin (Robert Lowry arranged Beth Croft © 2010 Thankyou Music)
- Your blood speaks a better word (Matt Redman © 2004 Thankyou Music)

### iv) Final song as leave the church

- Stay with me (Jacques Berthier © 1984 Ateliers et Presses de Taize)

## Appendix 2 – Interviews with “Slave” and “Miriam”

**Cast:** Interviewer, Slave called “Bela” (male), Miriam  
**Props:** Clipboards

.....  
*(Enter Interviewer, Slave and Miriam. Interviewer sits down on a chair and the Slave and Miriam sit on chairs either side of her)*

Interviewer: Good evening and welcome to News Night where I am joined by two most interesting people. We have Bela of the clan of Reuben, and Miriam – Moses’ sister. Thank you both for coming onto News Night.

Bela can I begin by asking you about conditions in Egypt prior to your deliverance by Moses? Was Egypt really so bad or has it all been rather hyped up?

Bela: Well I don’t know what you have heard but when I was a young boy Egypt was a good place to live in.....

Interviewer: *(Interrupting)* I thought so.....things always get hyped by the media

Bela: Hold on....I haven’t finished. Things changed dramatically when I was eighteen years old. I remember it well as it was my birthday and my family were all planning on having a special celebration that day.

Interviewer: So what happened?

Bela: A new King came into power and he was really unhappy with how many of us Israelites were living in Egypt so he had the idea that we should become his slaves.

Interviewer: Really?

Bela: On my birthday there was a loud knock on the door and we were all ordered outside and told by Pharaoh’s men that we had a hard day of work ahead. I couldn’t believe it.....

Interviewer: So what did you have to do?

Bela: Well from that day on and for many years afterwards we had to build the store cities of Pithom and Rameses for Pharaoh. Every day it was back breaking work in the searing heat carrying heavy bricks for miles, constructing buildings and all with Egyptian slave masters shouting at us all day long to speed up.

Interviewer: What happened if you didn’t speed up?

Bela: They treated us very cruelly. They would beat us or they would hold back our food. We didn't dare answer them back or they would beat our women.

Interviewer: That must have been dreadful

Bela: It was. Even my poor mother was sent to work in the fields each day. She would come home so exhausted that she could barely cook for us in the evening. Those Egyptians made our lives really bitter.....they used us ruthlessly.

Interviewer: I am very sorry to hear that.....it must be a very bad memory for you.

Bela: It is but it got worse

Interviewer: How could it get worse?

Bela: The King ordered the midwives to kill any boys that they delivered as babies. When my wife Ellie went into labour I was so frightened.....I was praying that we would have a girl and we did. I hate to think what would have happened if she had had a boy.

Interviewer: I think that this is where I would like to bring in our 2nd guest Miriam. Miriam wasn't your brother Moses saved in some amazing way from being killed?

Miriam: He was indeed. My mother couldn't bear the thought of seeing him killed so she wrapped him up in a cloth and laid him in a basket and hid it amongst the reeds on the banks of the Nile. I had to be the lookout for her.

Interviewer: That must have been rather scary

Miriam: It was scary. The scariest part was the day when the king's daughter came to bathe and she heard Moses crying in his little basket. When she found him, I thought my world had come to an end.

Interviewer: I'm not surprised. So what happened?

Miriam: When the king's daughter saw Moses, she immediately wanted him....

Interviewer: How amazing

Miriam: Being a princess she needed someone to look after Moses for her, so I immediately suggested our mother.

Interviewer: Smart thinking

- Miriam: As I look back now I realise that it was really God who rescued Moses because he had such a big job for him to do.
- Interviewer: Yes I want to come to that now. I gather your brother ran away from Egypt though for....some misdemeanour ....
- Miriam: He killed an Egyptian who was mistreating a Hebrew.
- Interviewer: I see. An unlikely candidate I would have thought for being used by God.
- Miriam: In our eyes yes.....but God had a bigger plan.
- Interviewer: Obviously. Am I right in thinking that God met Moses out in the wilderness in some remarkable way and told him to come back to Egypt?
- Miriam: Yes you're right - He did.
- Interviewer: So having arrived back in Egypt, what did your brother Moses do? Did he simply go and tell the King to stop treating your people so badly?
- Miriam: He did actually
- Interviewer: Wow – he had courage.
- Miriam: He did take our brother Aaron with him
- Interviewer: For moral support eh?
- Miriam: As his spokesman actually. They told the King that God had asked the Israelites to go to the wilderness to hold a festival.
- Interviewer: I can't imagine that that went down too well
- Bela: It didn't at all. In fact the King was so angry that the slave drivers were told not to supply us with straw any more for making the bricks. We had to get up even earlier to collect the straw we needed to make the bricks.
- Interviewer: I suppose that meant you made less bricks
- Bela: It did initially but we got beaten and told that we had to make the same number of bricks as we had done before.
- Interviewer: So I don't expect that Moses was very popular with you all.
- Bela: He wasn't initially. Because of him our work got much harder.

Interviewer: So how did you manage to get out of Egypt? It sounds totally impossible to me.

Miriam: What was impossible for us was possible for God. He sent ten plagues against the Egyptians....sending them everything from frogs to locusts, giant hail storms and boils. Each time a plague arrived the king said he would let us go, but at the last moment he changed his mind.

Interviewer: That can't have been much fun for you Israelites either.

Miriam: That was the amazing thing. We lived in Goshen and none of the plagues came near us.

Interviewer: How amazing. What eventually changed the King's mind so that you could leave Egypt?

Miriam: The final plague of killing the firstborn.

Interviewer: Oh wow.....now I did hear rumours that you all did something rather unusual on the night that you left.

Miriam: Oh yes. God had told Moses to tell each family to kill a perfect one year old lamb and then take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the door-frames of our homes. When the angel of death came that night, death passed over our homes.

Interviewer: And so you left Egypt....

Miriam: We did. It was an amazing night when we were rescued. We could hear all of this crying from different houses around us, and then suddenly there was a shout. We had to get up quickly and leave our homes, carrying everything we could on our backs. My mother carried the bread dough she had made on her shoulders still in its kneading trough. She didn't even have time to add the yeast.

Interviewer: What an incredible and remarkable story.....Bela, Miriam. Thank you so much for joining us tonight and sharing all of this with us. And so from them and me – a very good night.

*(Exit interviewer, Bela and Miriam)*