



**Lenten Reflection for Saturday, April 2nd**  
Tom Rigney

You can listen to the reading and reflection by clicking [here](#).

**Exodus 12:21 - 27**

*Then Moses called all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go, select lambs for your families, and slaughter the passover lamb. Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and touch the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood in the basin. None of you shall go outside the door of your house until morning. For the Lord will pass through to strike down the Egyptians; when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the Lord will pass over that door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you down. You shall observe this rite as a perpetual ordinance for you and your children. When you come to the land that the Lord will give you, as he has promised, you shall keep this observance. And when your children ask you, 'What do you mean by this observance?' you shall say, 'It is the passover sacrifice to the Lord, for he passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt, when he struck down the Egyptians but spared our houses.'" And the people bowed down and worshiped.*

In the passage Moses delivers the message of God to the Israelites enslaved in Egypt, passing on God's plan for their safety, and His directions to them. We can wonder if they believe this is a viable plan when Moses first shares it with them. But the directions are unequivocal: slaughter a lamb, capture the blood and smear it on the posts and lintel of their doorways, and do not leave their houses during the night. Moses tells them of God's plan to apply the most fearsome of the plagues: the death of each Egyptian family's firstborn. The enslaved Israelites have to obey and follow God's plan by faith in order to be saved. Pharaoh and Egypt had been previously warned what would occur if they did not permit the Israelites to leave Egypt, and the whole thing could have been avoided if Pharaoh had released the Israelites as God required. But he declined and God released the most severe plague, sending the angel of death to kill the Egyptians' firstborn sons.

They are further instructed that God expects them to memorialize this event perpetually in a prescribed religious rite when they settle in the land that God will bestow on them after they flee Egypt. They are expected to sacrifice in appreciation and thanksgiving for what God has done for them. I think God expects them to remain faithful and never forget how they have been saved from death and destruction, part of His pact with them.



*Tom Rigney lives in Kensington with his wife Robin Bady and their passel of cats. He has been coming to Holy Apostles for three years.*