

Leviticus 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27,34-37.

Matthew 14: 1-12

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said, “These are the Lord’s solemn festivals, the sacred assemblies to which you are to summon the sons of Israel on the appointed day.”

Then the Lord gave Moses an exact list, not just of the days and times, but of how they were to be celebrated. God had accompanied his people through many times of hardship as well as joy. Special and significant times which he wanted them to remember forever. Why? Because they marked a history of deliverance. For us, too, these times serve as a reminder of part of our own salvation history.

Today we remember and celebrate important days in our own personal histories. Such as birthdays and anniversaries. Many write biographies, setting out special events. Memories that form us as unique people.

The Gospel passage announces the culmination of our Salvation history. The arrival of our Saviour Jesus, whose beginnings could be traced right back to its beginning. ‘Jesus taught the people in their synagogue in such a way that they were astonished and said, “Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?”’ ‘Status was more important to them than the person. They could not see because of their prejudices. So, they wouldn’t listen, but rather continued to follow their fixed ways and traditions. They missed the very person to whom their history had been leading. ‘And he (Jesus) did not work many miracles there because of their lack of faith.’

How often do our own fixed ways and prejudices lead us to ‘miss’ Jesus and his message in our own lives?