

May 12<sup>th</sup>

## WHO AM I?

*“And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?”*

**EXODUS 3:9-11**

430 years. Four to six generations of slaves. Oppression, judgment, and slavery. Now is the time where God comes to rescue His people out of their misery of slavery. It's exactly what God had said to Abraham in Genesis 15. But God never explained how He was going to deliver His people. He just promised that He would. Enter the fugitive Moses. He ran from Pharaoh forty years prior and now was a shepherd. He left the palace of riches to now lead lonely sheep in a far away land. We don't have much of any information about Moses' life while he was a shepherd. We know that he married Zipporah and had two sons, but that's about all the information that we are given about his forty years as a shepherd. We can speculate from the vocation of shepherds that he was lonely. After all, sheep don't talk back to their shepherd. There would have been long days of silence and solitude. God gave Moses forty years to be alone with his thoughts about his upbringing, including his regrets. We can see what Moses learned by his response to God in the burning bush. His first response can also be linked to us. But how?

Moses responds to God like any normal shepherd or any normal person would...with denial. He doesn't see himself possessing any kind of special ability to be able to lead the people out of Egypt. Especially if he must appear before the mighty king of Egypt! Moses reminds God (as if God needed reminding) of who he is. To be more precise, he asks, “Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?” Moses puts two obstacles in front of God...Pharaoh and the people of Israel. He's already failed in encountering both. Before he fled for the desert, he was convicted of murdering an Egyptian. There was a warrant issued for his arrest. He murdered the Egyptian because he was trying to rescue the Hebrews from the tyranny of Egypt. Both of these efforts failed miserably. His own people didn't accept his efforts to rescue him, and Pharaoh definitely didn't appreciate it! These two failures bring Moses to a place of no confidence in himself...which is exactly where God wants him.

Did you notice how God responds to Moses here? Maybe it's best to start with what God doesn't say. He doesn't break down into a motivational speech that attempts to pick Moses up out of his humble state. What He does say instructs Moses and instructs us. His simple response is five English words: “I will be with you.” It's not about Moses and it certainly isn't about us. It's never been about someone being a special man of God. It's always been God and His presence in the life of His men. Men, this gives us hope. No, we aren't Moses...and God never asks us to be Moses. Instead, God offers His presence and strength to us...everyday. This is all that we need. Why would we look for anything or anyone else? He has already promised His presence. How will this encourage you today?

***Spend some time thanking God that He is always with us, and gives us exactly what we need to live boldly for Him.***

**For Further Reading: Joshua 1:1-10**