

May 13th
WHO IS GOD?

Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I am has sent me to you.' "

EXODUS 3:13-14

What's one of the first things that comes into your mind when you think about God? A.W. Tozer claimed that whatever comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us. If someone were to ask you who God is, what would you say to them? Our answers to these questions can tell us the truth about our relationship with God. I bring this to our attention because God brings it to Moses' attention. But only after Moses has already questioned who he himself is. Yesterday, we focused on Moses' humility in the mission that God was calling him to. He has forgotten who he is. What's interesting is that God doesn't say anything to Moses to help unpack Moses' identity issues. Instead, He promises His presence for the mission.

Moses quickly moves from humble man to arrogant man, all within a paragraph. Put yourself in the shoes of Moses here. Would you have had the guts to give an "if" statement to God about appearing before Pharaoh? Most of us wouldn't dare. Here Moses puts the blame on the people of Israel for asking who this God is that is claiming He is going to deliver the people. This isn't really a question from the people. Instead, Moses is the one that is asking. Even as God has said He's the God of the Patriarchs, Moses still wants confirmation. What does God say here and how does this impact us?

God reveals His name as "I AM WHO I AM." In the Bible, names reveal someone's character. It's no different with God. Philip Ryken emphasizes two big concepts with God's name here: God is always in the present tense and God is self-existent. Ryken states, "God does not say, 'I was who I was'...He says, 'I am who I am.' This is because he has no past or future but only an eternal present. God is the One who always is." God is outside of time. He is eternal. This is why He says to Moses: "This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations." God is never in the past tense. How does this help us as men? The God who spoke to Moses is always present with you. His acts of power, strength, mercy, and grace aren't isolated to the past with Moses and the Hebrews. God is unchangeable and always present with His people...that includes you.

Ready to dive into the deep end of the pool? Now we come to God's self-existence. A streamlined version of this attribute of God is that God doesn't need anyone to help Him exist. He is completely independent. This is why the bush doesn't burn up when God is with it. There is no end. God's presence doesn't need more oxygen to keep the fire burning. God has enough Himself. He is complete. This challenges us men to offer our lives in worship to God. We need Him, but He doesn't command our worship because He needs it. He commands our worship because we need Him. We only find our satisfaction and contentment when we find Him...because He is enough.

One more essential truth. God reveals Himself to His people here and also reveals Himself in the New Testament. This time, His name is Jesus. Read John 8 when Jesus claims that before Abraham was, I AM. How do the Jews respond? They want to kill him immediately. They know exactly what Jesus is claiming. Jesus is the 2nd Person of the Trinity. He is God. This is the God we serve. The One who adds human flesh to Himself and becomes our Substitute. He is all that we need!

Spend some time praising God for His perfect nature, that He is worthy of our worship.

For Further Reading: John 8:48-59

