



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – May 11, 2024

The Lord be with you.

Are you sensing today that God is calling you? Calling you to do something, perhaps, in your community or in your church, your family? Maybe God is calling you to do something in your career or calling you to take a big step in your life. And you're doubting, doubting yourself. "Who am I? Who am I to think that I could do something so important, so impactful, so lasting. Who am I?"

"Who am I?" is something that I've been wrestling with recently. And, and then I came across this marvelous passage of scripture back in the book of Exodus chapter three verse 11, as Moses is being called called by God to do the impossible God called saying I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt. But Moses said to God, who am I? Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt? And God responds, I will be with you.

Here is Moses herding ordinary sheep on an ordinary day in the wilderness of Sinai. And from an ordinary scrubby bush, Moses hears God's call to the monumental job of going before the most powerful man in the world and demanding that Pharaoh let slaves go free. And Moses asked who am I? And God's answer is I will be with you now, 40 years earlier than this. I'm not so sure that Moses would have doubted himself like this. I mean, Moses was raised as a prince in Egypt, the adopted son of Pharaoh's daughter. And Moses received the best education in the world and he enjoyed all the privileges of royalty.

But remember how Moses killed an Egyptian and he, he flees Egypt and he spends the next 40 years living in obscurity, tending sheep on the backside of the desert and, and God calls him to deliver his people. "Who am I?" Moses protests. "I will go with you," God fires back.

It's been said of Moses that he spends the 1st 40 years of his life thinking he was somebody. Moses spends the next 40 years in the wilderness thinking he was a nobody. And Moses spends the last 40 years of his life learning how God can use a nobody because you see it is never about who am I are, who you are, but who God is and what God is wanting to do through you and me when God calls who I am really does not matter. It's who God is that counts. It's not about me, it's not about you. It's about God and that our inadequacies are no match for God's promise, I will be with you.



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Now, there was a marked up underlying passage in my Bible over in Second Corinthians chapter three verse four where the Apostle Paul writes, he says, such is the confidence that we have through Christ towards God. Not that we are competent of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us. Our competence comes from God. I mean, this is a passage that I come back to again and again, not that we are competent of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us. Our competence comes from God.

No, I know I, I know that the culture talks about self-confidence, that you, that you've got to have self confidence. No, what you and I need is God confidence. Our Lord Jesus Christ tells us in the gospel of John chapter 15 verse five. He says, apart from me, you can do nothing. When God calls us, God goes with us and God is to us, all the power, the strength, the enabling that we're going to need. And that's why throughout scripture throughout life, we see God using ordinary people to do his extraordinary work.

And you know, God is calling each of us to do important things in His kingdom, whether it is stepping out in faith, to pursue a new opportunity to serve in our community, to serve in our church. God's callings are God's gifts. Whenever we ask who am I? God counters, I, we'll go with you so we can say with the apostle Paul, I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

One of my great heroes of the faith has long been J Hudson Taylor, the founder of the China inland mission who had a time in the 19th century when missionaries dared only to go to the seaports of China with the gospel. J Hudson Taylor stepped out in faith at great risk to take the gospel inland. And once, when someone complimented J Hudson Taylor on the founding of the China Inland mission, he responded, he said, it seemed to me, the God had looked over the whole world to find a man who was weak enough to do his work. And when at last, he found me, he said he is weak enough. He'll do.

If today you're finding yourself like Moses asking who am I hear God's word to you, "I, we'll go with you."

I am Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thank you for listening. Until next time.