

Series: **Exodus: Seeing God in the Journey**
Title: **Identity Crisis: Do you know who you are?**
Text: **Exodus 2:11-22**

Augustine, a great saint of God had lived with a prostitute before his conversion. After he was wonderfully saved, he was walking down the street and this prostitute saw him. She shouted his name and he kept walking. He saw her, but kept his eyes straightforward and walked. She continued crying after him and ran after him. And finally, she said, “Augustine, it is I.” To which he replied, “I know, but it is no longer I.”

C H Spurgeon’s sermon, ‘The way to honor’:

To the world, the flesh, and the devil—should be the answer of every true servant of Christ: “I live, yet not I but Christ liveth in me.”

The teaching was that we were henceforth to be dead and buried to the world and alive alone for Jesus. It was the crossing of the Rubicon—the drawing of the sword and the flinging away of the scabbard. If the world should call us we now reply, “We are dead to thee, O world!”

Exodus 2:11-22

¹¹ One day, when Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and looked on their burdens, and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his people. ¹² He looked this way and that, and seeing no one, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. ¹³ When he went out the next day, behold, two Hebrews were struggling together. And he said to the man in the wrong, “Why do you strike your companion?” ¹⁴ He answered, “Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?” Then Moses was afraid, and thought, “Surely the thing is known.” ¹⁵ When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh and stayed in the land of Midian. And he sat down by a well.

¹⁶ Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came and drew water and filled the troughs to water their father's flock. ¹⁷ The shepherds came and drove them away, but Moses stood up and saved them, and watered their flock. ¹⁸ When they came home to their father Reuel, he said, “How is it that you have come home so soon today?” ¹⁹ They said, “An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds and even drew water for us and watered the flock.” ²⁰ He said to his daughters, “Then where is he? Why have you left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread.” ²¹ And Moses was content to dwell with the man, and he gave Moses his daughter Zipporah. ²² She gave birth to a son, and he called his name Gershom, for he said, “I have been a sojourner in a foreign land.”

MOSES’ DECISIONS ON IDENTITY

National Identity or Divine Identity

Egyptian or Hebrew? (God’s people, God’s promise)

- Egypt the state, the government
 - Josephus states that Pharaoh had no son – Moses may have been nurtured toward the throne.
 - He was placed in the hands of the most polished Egyptian tutors and they immediately began to instruct Moses in the protocol, lifestyle and culture of the Egyptians.
 - Moses likely attended the Temple of the Sun which was the premier educational center of Egypt – It has been called “the Oxford of the ancient world.”

- Extra-biblical historians tell us that by the time Moses reached 30 years old, he had already led the Egyptian army to a convincing victory over the Ethiopians.
- So look at our little Moses all grown up – he’s a bold military strategist; he’s wise in worldly matters; he’s competent as a leader; he’s primed for the throne; he’s the pride of Egypt.

Acts 7:20-22

²⁰ *At this time Moses was born; and he was beautiful in God's sight. And he was brought up for three months in his father's house,* ²¹ *and when he was exposed, Pharaoh's daughter adopted him and brought him up as her own son.* ²² *And Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was mighty in his words and deeds.*

- He was an Egyptian!
- And yet...
- Hebrew – The people of God
 - when Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and looked on their burdens
 - His people

Flesh Identity or Spirit Identity

Acts 7:23-24

²³ *When he was forty years old, **it came into his heart to visit his brothers**, the children of Israel.* ²⁴ *And seeing one of them being wronged, **he defended the oppressed man and avenged him by striking down the Egyptian.***

- Punisher or Protector
- He supposed that his brothers would understand that God was giving them salvation by his hand, but they did not understand

Ex. 2:11-12

¹¹ *...he went out to his people and looked on their burdens, and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his people.* ¹² *He looked this way and that, and seeing no one, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.*

He knew he was doing wrong

“He looked this way and that, and seeing no one, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.” (v. 12)

- See if someone is looking.
- Kills a man.
- Hides his crime.
- This is a clue that you are on the wrong path.
 - This happens when you know you are doing wrong even if you think you are doing right
 - Doing evil in the name of good is still evil
 - He buries the body
- He comes back the next day... to see if he has covered his sin

“I groan daily under a body of sin and corruption. Oh for the time when I shall drop this flesh, and be free from sin!”

– Charles Spurgeon

Fear of being caught

“Then Moses was afraid, and thought, ‘Surely the thing is known.’” (V. 14)

- To remove them from this life or to insure them a seat at the table
- Anger unleashed or standard and saving
 - ‘Who made you a ruler and a judge over us?’

Superior Identity or Servant Identity

- Superior or Shepherd
- Position of authority
- Servant of All

Acts 7:25-27

²⁵ He supposed that his brothers would understand that God was giving them salvation by his hand, but they did not understand. ²⁶ *And on the following day he appeared to them as they were quarreling and tried to reconcile them, saying, ‘Men, you are brothers. Why do you wrong each other?’* ²⁷ *But the man who was wronging his neighbor thrust him aside, saying, ‘Who made you a ruler and a judge over us?’* ²⁸ *Do you want to kill me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?’*

- (See Exodus 2: 13-14)

Settled Identity or Sojourner Identity

Acts 7:35-36

³⁵ “This Moses, whom they rejected, saying, ‘Who made you a ruler and a judge?’—this man God sent as both ruler and redeemer by the hand of the angel who appeared to him in the bush. ³⁶ This man led them out, performing wonders and signs in Egypt and at the Red Sea and in the wilderness for forty years.

Ex. 2:17

The shepherds came and drove them away, but Moses stood up and saved them, and watered their flock.

Ex. 2:21-22

²¹ And Moses was content to dwell with the man, and he gave Moses his daughter Zipporah. ²² She gave birth to a son, and he called his name Gershom, for he said, “I have been a sojourner in a foreign land.”

OUR ETERNAL DECISIONS ON IDENTITY

Saved or Separated

Isaiah 59:2

... but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.

- Our sins separate us.
- There is a divide between God and us.
- You don’t see Him and He will not hear you.
- He hears the call of the repentant.

John 3:36

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

- Eternal life comes through Christ alone.

John 1:12

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God...

- Receive and believe.
- Become the child of God.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

- You are not the same.
- No longer seen as a sinner...but a saint
- You are a new creation.
- A new nature is in you.
- The spirit is now in you.

Sinful or Saintly

James 4: 4

You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

- There is no fence riding.
- The world is not our friend.
- The sinful way is the way to destruction.
- Cannot be friend of both.

1 Cor. 6:9-11

⁹ Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

- “The way to Heaven is ascending; we must be content to travel uphill, though it be hard and tiresome, and contrary to the natural bias of our flesh.” – Jonathan Edwards
- And such were some of you.
- You are now washed and sanctified.
- Carnality is not the way of the saint.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

- My life is now lived for Christ
- I no longer live...Christ lives in me

Colossians 3:1-4

¹ If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

- My mind now is on things from above
- My life is covered and wrapped in Jesus Christ
- My identity is hidden in Christ

1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

- See your identity.
- Chosen, priest, holy, His possession
- We are no longer in darkness.

Ambiguous or Ambassador

2 Timothy 2:15

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

- Our action is to present ourselves to God in an unashamed way.
- We handle the Word – it shapes us.

1 Peter 4:13-16

¹³ But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ¹⁶ Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

- Taking the insults of the world is part of it.
- We are to glorify God when we suffer for Christ's name and for our walk with Him.

Matt. 5:14-16

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

- Shining before others
- They must see our good works.
- And that we give glory to God.

2 Cor. 5:18-20

¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

- We have the ministry of reconciling others to God.
- He is doing this through you and me.

- That they might have their sins held against them.
- His appeal is made through you and me.

CHALLENGE

I choose to accept the invitation of Jesus to follow Him.

I choose to live a life worthy of the Gospel of Jesus.

I choose to shine a light in this world to show the Love of God.