

Big Idea: Who Am I? & Who Are You?.

Scripture: Exo 3:1-17

The Why: The only way to discover who you are is by discovering who God is.

Introduction: Names are important. Who Am I? Who Are You?

1. Who AM I?

Moses knew he couldn't do what God had just told him to do, even with the promise that God would be with him. Overview of Exo 3. The Hebrewd had not followed him in the past.

Exodus 3:11 **"Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?"**

"Who Am I?" Moses' identity crisis. is stuck in the middle of a deep-rooted identity crisis.

Story of Moses (Exo 1&2): Moses thus receives the best education Egypt can offer - in the heart of Pharaoh's own household.

As a young adult, you can imagine Moses sorting out his belonging.

Imagine the internal crisis. Rejected by the Israelites and wanted for murder by the Egyptians, Born a Hebrew, raised an Egyptian, Living as a Midian. From a highly educated prince to a fugitive shepherd. This is a 40 year long meltdown.

Shepherds were the low men on the totem pole. (bankrupt athlete analogy)

What did all of Moses' fine education get him?

Moses is now an old man full of regret and self-doubt.

Explain why we don't ask the question "Who are you" when we don't know who we are? It leads to self doubt,

Give examples of failure: Marriage

Give examples of how we don't serve

Here is the ironic thing, Moses excuses

Exodus 4:10

But Moses said to the Lord, "Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue."

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.

It is amazing what God can do to with a nobody. He can do more with a nobody than with someone who thinks he's somebody.

"Moses spent 40 years thinking he was somebody and now 40 years learning he was a nobody." DL Moody

Culture on Identity & struggles:

I have self doubt,

I feel unloveable,

I feel like it is garbage day and I'm the trash.

I can't discover who I am until I discover who God is

2. Who Are You

Exodus 3:13-15 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?" ¹⁴ 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.' "

Why asking the name identity not just an identifier. |

God has been silent:

The faith of the Hebrews had to find their anchor in the historic encounters of the living God with dead saints.

Personal Name.

Yahweh is the most popular name for God. It is used 6823 times in the Old Testament .

His personal name is translated LORD in all caps.

My name is John, not sir, God's personal name is Yahweh not LORD.

God waits until now, to Moses, for a specific purpose to communicate the meaning of his name. In Exodus 6:3 God specifically says that he did not reveal the meaning of his name to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. What in the world does Yahweh mean?

" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." in verse 14.

I am. The Hebrew verb of being. That is pronounced, **EH-YE**, in Hebrew the imperfect tense is I will be.

I am or I will be

reveals that he is in a constant state of being.

Yahweh = He is

- obvious meaning eternal being.
- That Yehweh is the self-existent one,
- contingent on no one,
- he exists forever in a state of eternal being,
- he alone possesses life in and of himself,
- Yahweh is the uncaused cause.
- So Yahweh alone is eternal God, he is the one who was, and is, and is to come.

Context is Important - Context, Context, Context

Exodus 3:15-17

¹⁵ God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations. ¹⁶ Go and gather the elders of Israel together and say to them, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, has appeared to me, saying, "I have observed you and what has been done to you in Egypt, ¹⁷ and I promise that I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, a land flowing with milk and honey."

The historical context that God reveals himself as Yahweh is as significant a God is **eternally present**. Here is what it means, God is faithful to be God for his people in the history that is about to follow.

In revealing the name God assures Moses he will accomplish what he has promised. God says I will be who I will be whether we're talking about Abraham, Isaac, or Jacob, you Moses, or Israel in the future, in the land

God is revealing himself in this cultural context to say his name "He is" means God will be faithful to his people in every time and in every place.

In every imaginable situation
our God is for us what we need him to be.

there is this unbroken continuity that exists in God's faithfulness to his people from the time of Abraham to the time of Moses, to the time of and on into the future.

The Lord is emphasizing that he related uniquely to each one of those men. I

So where was God these past 430 years? Where is God when it is quiet? Remember back to Genesis 15

those 4 centuries. When Jacob left the land during the great famine a family of Israel numbered about 75. Now 400 years later the family of Israel numbers close to 2,000,000.

Was God uninvolved? Was God distant? Not at all. The God who is fully present and involved with his people is so in every age and in every possible context.

In a sentence, the primary meaning of Yahweh is, God is for each of his people what they need him to be at their present point of need.

In fact Yahweh defines himself and the significance of who he is. When in the context of revealing his name he says this in verses 7-8. This is a picture of Yahweh.

Exodus 3:7-8 Then the Lord said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings,⁸ and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians

A picture of Yahweh

I See

I Hear

I'm Concerned

I Come

All along, when God seemed distant and uninterested, We actually find that he was right there in the mud pits with his people. Feeling the pain that they were feeling, Seeing first hand the misery they were experiencing. He was never disconnected and he was never uninvolved through all those centuries of slavery. God was preparing his people for greatness and fulfilling his promise to Abraham.

The God whose name is "He is", The God whose name means he will be what he will be for us what we need him to be at our greatest point of need. From Abraham, To Moses, and the list goes on and on to you and to me. So where is God when the cancer returns? When the divorce is finalized? And the abuse continues? Yahweh is right there with you.. Even if he seems silent and distant.

The bridge to waymaker by Sinach

Even when I don't see it, You're working
Even when I don't feel it, You're working
You never stop, You never stop working
You never stop, You never stop working

He Sees your affliction, he hears your cries, He is concerned of your suffering, and he has come down to rescue you.

The meaning of the name Yahweh is most clearly seen in his incarnation as a man. That is why Jesus made it clear that he is the great I AM. In John 8:58 Jesus intentionally uses the Greek equivalent to the Hebrew verb of being. When he calls himself I AM. He does this on several occasions but in

John 8:58 Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am."

Jesus is Yahweh and he is for us what we need him to be at our greatest point of need at all times and at all places. Jesus is the ultimate expression of who "He IS" to his people.

- **Our history became such an important part of his history that he took on our sin and shame.**
- **The Bible says that he became sin for us.**
- **He so thoroughly identified with you and me that he got blamed for all that we deserved.**
- **And he died for us on the cross and raised from the grave so that we could be made right with God.**

Here is the miracle of miracles. When we trust in Yahweh who became a man, then his history becomes our history. Our history became his. Credited with his righteousness. We stand before God in him. Jesus is to us what we need him to be at our greatest point of need. Not only in the past. But in the present,

My testimony example

What God Can Do

Yahweh came to an 80 year old broken down shepherd in the middle of nowhere. And called him to lead a movement that would liberate an entire nation from the tyranny of evil. **Moses spent his last 40 years discovering what God can do with a nobody.** Here's the thing we got what Moses could only dream of. Because God said, I will be with you Moses. In the New Testament God is in us. Jesus said that his spirit is going to come and live within you forever. He is with us in a level today that Moses could have only dreamed of. God called Moses to storm the gates of Egypt something Moses couldn't but God can.

-I can't lead my neighbor to a relationship with Jesus but God can

-I can't reconcile broken relationships in my life but God can

-I can't keep our church united when our nation is so divided but God can

-I can't meet every single need that my family has but God can

-I can't, but God can.

And as we discover who He Is, the great I am, the ever present one who is for us what we need him to be at our greatest point of need. We can then discover who am I. It starts by knowing that

God is not only with us, but his spirit is in us. **I can't discover who I am until I discover who God is**