

## Who Am I...?

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*And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?*

*– Exodus 3:11 –*

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When reviewing the lives of the Bible's central figures, it is often easy to miss some of their most human attributes amidst the accounts of their towering acts of faith or their sinful failures. The familiar human characteristics of these individuals are intrinsically woven into the narrative and bespeak neither tragedy nor triumph but serve nonetheless to encourage and instruct as much as either. Such is the case here with Moses' call at the burning bush and his initial interview with the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Moses question, "Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh..." was an indicator of a need for faith as well as the overdue birth of what had to be multiplied musings of forty years on the backside of the desert. We can easily understand how these words, "Who am I?", must have hounded him for the last four decades. He had been raised as a statesman and a warrior, the son of Pharaoh's daughter, learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, mighty in words and deeds. As such, he probably had legitimate right to the throne of Egypt, or at least the security to ever be an extension of it. But he had likely been haunted by distant recollections of Jochebed's sweet Jehovah-centered lullabies and Amram's rehearsals of God's promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob round the family altar where both Miriam and Aaron sat. These vague memories of his pre-Egyptian upbringing along with having to helplessly witness the injustices met by the Hebrews at the hands of their Egyptian masters must have driven him to the dawning of the realization that he needed to suffer affliction with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures sin for a season. But either overzealous or misunderstood by his brethren (or both), he fled Egypt. And ultimately, after settling in Midian and assuming the role of husband and father in a strange land, tending his father-in-law's flock for the last four decades, we can imagine how it must have been a question that echoed multiplied times daily in his mind, with no satisfying answer ever presenting itself to relieve the burden from this eighty-year-old man's heart – "Who am I?"

Have we not all wrestled with the very same question, friends – "Who am I?" It is fundamental to our existence and yet the answer so easily eludes us. Many go their entire lives without conquering it. There are manifold forces at work within each of our lives to try to define us, be they our pasts, our professions, our families, our friends, our rulers, our possessions, or our own aspirations and desires. And yet clamoring to discover our definition in, by, or through any of these will ultimately prove just as unfulfilling to our hungering hearts as Moses' experiences were to his. Until we remove our shoes and bow our heads before the One who calls us by name, our lives are little more than an enigmatic series of events. But once we hear that Voice and genuinely inquire of Him our purpose, we will find that the long-awaited answer lies not in us, but in Him. *We are now not undefined, but re-defined by Him who is the great I AM.* Once realized, real life begins. What was lost is now found. At that moment, life ceases to be a puzzle and becomes an adventure. And just as Moses was renewed to forsake Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king, so we will find that we are no longer bound to live in bewilderment or fear, but courageously at the pleasure of Him who called us, emptied us, and re-birthed us into the purpose He had intended for our lives from eternity past.

May we live boldly today, not wondering who we are, but confident in and under the shadow of the great I AM, Him who was, and is, and is to come!