Who am I?
The Power of Identity

1 Chronicles 17:16-20

16 And David the king came and sat before the Lord, and said, Who am I, O Lord God, and what is mine house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?
17 And yet this was a small thing in thine eyes, O God; for thou hast also spoken of thy servant's house for a great while to come, and hast regarded me according to the estate of a man of high degree, O Lord God.
18 What can David speak more to thee for the honour of thy servant? for thou knowest thy servant.
19 O Lord, for thy servant's sake, and according to thine own heart, hast thou done all this greatness, in making known all these great things.
20 O Lord, there is none like thee, neither is there any God beside thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

The context of this passage is something we discussed several weeks ago.

- David desired to build God a house.
  - If you will remember, David sat in his palace and was dismayed by the fact that the glory of God dwelt in a makeshift tent.
    - Something was stirred within him and a very honorable desire was born.
  - David sought the favor of God to build God a house, a grand and glorious temple that would be crowning jewel of the nation of Isreal.
    - The answer came from God, through Nathan, that David wasn't the man to build god’s house.
    - He couldn’t do so because he had blood on his hands.
- But God tells David that his son will build the temple that David cannot build.
  - In the course of that exchange God makes a wonderful promise to David.
    - Since you have desired to build me a house, I will build your house.
    - Your son's throne will be FOREVER established.
  - It was an incredible prophecy, a prophecy that the lineage of David would forever sit upon David’s throne.
    - It was also a prophecy of the coming of Jesus, for in Jesus Christ, the ultimate son of David, the prophecy was forever fulfilled.
    - Our text this afternoon picks up right after that exchange.

David comes to the makeshift house of God and shuts himself away with God.
Who Am I

• Humbled and moved by God’s response to his desire, he comes before God with a burning question in his heart.
  o He sat before the Lord.
• The very act sitting before the Lord is indicative of the heaviness with which he approaches God.
  o The customary posture in such and instance was to stand before the Lord.
  o But David has a pressing burden upon his soul and it drives his posture down to a sitting position.
• David sits in the presence of the Lord.
  o In absolute humility, He cries out to God, “Who am I?”
• This is the haunting question that is plaguing David’s soul.
  o This is the heart-searching question that is echoing through his entire being.
• God just made him an incredible promise, a promise that is not just to him, or to his household but to generations to come.
  o God has just promised that the lineage of David will FOREVER occupy the throne of Israel.
    ▪ And David is incredibly moved by the grace of God in his life.
• He cries out from the depth of his soul:
  o Who am I and what is my house that the God of all glory, the ancient of Days, would even care what happens to my children’s children?
• David’s heart is crying out to God: Who am I?
  o I was just a shepherd.
    ▪ I was the youngest son.
    ▪ I was just a freckle faced kid.
    ▪ I was never anything special.
  o But you sought me out!
    ▪ You called me by name!
    ▪ You singled me out from all of my father’s household!
  o It was by your command that the anointing oil was poured over my head.
    ▪ It was you, Oh God, who took me from the sheepcoat.
    ▪ It was you, Oh God, who took me from following the sheep.
  o You, God, have made me a ruler over all your people.
    ▪ I didn’t get here by myself.
    ▪ This isn’t something that I worked out on my own.
  o It was your hand, God!
    ▪ You established my throne.
    ▪ You established my house.
  o You gave me a name beyond my wildest imaginations.
    ▪ When the world speaks of its might men, my name, the name of a lowly shepherd boy from Israel will always be in that discussion!
  o Who am I?
Notes by Pastor Tony McCall

The Pentecostals of Lake City

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- It was you, Lord.
- You’ve done all of this.
- You have established all my ways.
  - I’m living in your tremendous blessing.
    - You are my great benefactor.
- You’ve done all of this for me, and it is but a SMALL thing for you.
  - Because now, you’ve spoken of my house for generations to come!

Make no mistake about it, church, what David was saying was simply this: I am nothing.
- I am the least of the least.
  - But you, Oh God, have highly exalted me!
    - You have dealt with me in was that I didn’t deserve.
  - You’ve showered me with your kindness,
    - you’ve overshadowed me with your goodness,
    - your mercy has pursued me every day of my life
    - and I’m living in the big middle of your everlasting grace.
- The favor of God so moved the heart of David that he sits in the house of God and lets the question flow from the depths of his soul:
  - WHO AM I?
    - Who am I that you would call me from the sheepfold?
    - Who am I that you would show favor to my household for generations to come?
    - Who am I that you would establish my throne forevermore?
    - Who am I?

There is great beauty in the humility that drove David to sit in the presence of God on that day.
- It was more than just an emotional experience with God.
  - It was a pivotal moment in David’s life.
    - It was a place where David finally struggled to come to terms with a question that had been on the trail edge of his mind for a long, long time.
  - It is here, in the 17th chapter of Chronicles, as David sits in the presence of God that he finally and forever puts the issue of his identity to rest.
- It was a question that haunted David.
  - How did I rise from the sheepfold to the throne.
    - How did I get from the lowly place where I once was, to the high estate that god has brought me to.
    - Who am I that all this goodness should come upon me?
  - The question really reveals the heart of David.
    - But the answer to the question is where his true power and authority comes from.
• You see, as David sat in the presence of God that day he reached a powerful conclusion: I didn't do this!
  o I didn't get here on my own.
    ▪ I didn't set this in motion.
    ▪ I didn't bring this to pass.
  o And furthermore, I didn't declare the future.
    ▪ It was you God.
    ▪ You are the Lord of Hosts.
    ▪ You are the almighty God of Israel.
    ▪ It was you!
  o You've done it all.
    ▪ It was your hand upon me from the first day I stood in the sheepfold.
    ▪ You're the one who arranged the meeting with Goliath.
  o It was your hand, Oh God, that preserved me in those warring years when I hid in caves with my band o men.
    ▪ And it was you, Oh God, who brought me to this throne!
      • And it will be you, Oh God, that will establish this throne forevermore.

David, left the presence of God that day with a newfound confidence.
• The issue was forever settled in his heart.
  o Israel wasn't his kingdom: It was God's.
    ▪ It wasn't his throne: It was Gods.
• The powerful answer to David's question was simple yet profound?
  o Who am I? David asked.
    ▪ The answer resounded in his heart, “I am God’s man!”
• I didn't do it,
  o I didn’t cause it,
    ▪ none of the good in my life came from me,
    ▪ it all flows from God.
• Suddenly David was empowered.
  o He left that place and girded himself for battle.
    ▪ He gathered his armies and with a new confidence he marched forth to claim what was His.
• In that stark moment of personal revelation David came to the understanding that God had established his throne,
  o not just for this generation but for generations to come.
    ▪ And, in that knowledge, he realized something powerful:
      • I can't be defeated.
    ▪ I’m going to step out by faith and claim what God has already given me
      • because no foe can stand against me.
    ▪ God has established my throne, not just for me, but for generations to come.

Who Am I
• All of a sudden David sees, with stark clarity, that those hindering enemies that have nipped at his heels and raided his kingdom for all these years are powerless to stand against the promise of God.
  o With that knowledge, Israel’s warrior king goes to war to take back what the enemy has stolen,
    ▪ to establish the kingdom that is rightfully his,
    ▪ to claim what God has promised him.
• The military campaign is recorded in six short verses at the beginning of the next chapter:
  o 1 Chronicles 18:1-6
    ▪ 1 Now after this it came to pass, that David smote the Philistines, and subdued them, and took Gath and her towns out of the hand of the Philistines.
    ▪ 2 And he smote Moab; and the Moabites became David’s servants, and brought gifts.
    ▪ 3 And David smote Hadarezer king of Zobah unto Hamath, as he went to establish his dominion by the river Euphrates.
    ▪ 4 And David took from him a thousand chariots, and seven thousand horsemen, and twenty thousand footmen: David also houghed all the chariot horses, but reserved of them an hundred chariots.
    ▪ 5 And when the Syrians of Damascus came to help Hadarezer king of Zobah, David slew of the Syrians two and twenty thousand men.
    ▪ 6 Then David put garrisons in Syria-Damascus; and the Syrians became David’s servants, and brought gifts. Thus the Lord preserved David whithersoever he went.

• I come to preach to you, tonight, the power of identity!
  o There is power in knowing, not who you are but whose you are!
    ▪ There is authority in identity!
  o There is power and authority to be loosed in your life when you come to terms with this simple question: Who am I?
• Somebody needs to recognize what David learned on that fateful day.
  o It’s not so much about WHO I am as much as it about WHOSE I am!
    ▪ I belong to God.
    ▪ I’m a servant of the King of all King.
  o The Lord, the maker of heaven and earth,
    ▪ he fights my battles,
    ▪ he supplies my every need.
  o It is he who has established my going forth and my coming in,
    ▪ and in him my ultimate victory is absolutely secure!

Somebody in this house needs to hear what I’m saying tonight:
• You are familiar with all of your faults.
  o You know your track record.
You know all of the reasons why God can’t use you
- You know why he shouldn’t bless you.
  o Yet, still, you feel the call of God on your life.
    - Still he moves on you,
    - still he wakes you in the middle of the night.
  o You just can’t shake it,
    - you just can’t get away from it,
    - God is calling you to his purpose.

- But you’ve struggled with the question: Who am I?
  o I come to tell you that God is doing for you, in this house this evening,
    what he did for David on that special day long ago.
    - He has provided you with a place and time in his presence to
      answer the question.
  o I want you to know, tonight, that it is high time to settle the identity issue.
    - You need to leave this house with a firm understanding.
      - It’s not about you, it’s all about him.
    - You didn’t call yourself, God called you.
      - You didn’t establish yourself, God has established you.
    - Some folks are like Saul, God made him King but he never learned the
      real truth of what that meant.
      - Saul always thought that it was all about him.
      - That’s reason he failed so miserably.
    - But David learned a valuable lesson when he settled the identity issue.
      - David learned that it wasn’t about him at all.
      - David learned that what God has established, only God can tear
        down.

- Let me tell you something tonight:
  o When you get the identity issue settled,
    - you will leave this place with spiritual authority and power to
      claim what God has already given to you.

- Some of you need to go back to your home,
  o back to your job,
    - back to the circumstances that have harassed your spirit
    - the troubles that have weakened your faith
      - And you need to confront those things with the simple
        knowledge that you belong to God!
        o Sir, you are God’s man!
        o Ma’am, you are the daughter of the King!
  o God has established you and nothing in this life can take that away
    from you!

It’s the same struggle that Moses faced when he stood before the burning bush.
- God said, “Go tell Pharaoh to let my people go!”
  o But Moses said, I can’t.”
    - I stutter.
I’m a wanted man.
I’ve got all kinds of limitations.
Send someone else.

Who am I, God?
I’m a murderer.
I’m a fugitive.
I’m a nobody.
I’m a has-been.
Go find somebody else.

When God told him to throw down the staff and watch it turn into a snake,
then to pick it up again and watch it turn back into a Rod
He was saying, its not about you!

When God told him to put his hand in his busom and to draw it out and see that it was covered in leperousy,
then to put it back again and bring it forth clean
He was answering the question.

Its not so much about who you are as it is about WHOSE you are!

God was saying, its not about you!
Its about me!
Moses, you are my man,
I’ve called you,
I’ve fashioned you,
I’ve prepared you for this moment
and the only thing that matters is that you belong to me!

That same faltering, frail, timid, weak Moses who stood before the burning bush
would stand in the presence of Pharaoh and all of his advisers
and lift his voice with all of the authority of heaven and demand: “Let my people go!”

It’s the power of Identity!
It’s the authority of knowing Whose you are.

It will absolutely change your life when you finally come to the knowledge that you are a blood bought child of God
and nothing, I MEAN NOTHING, comes into your life that God hasn’t ordained!

It’s Gideon standing before the Angel of the Lord reciting his laundry list of reasons why God can’t use him.
My family is poor.
My father’s house is the least of all Israel and I am the least of all my father’s house.

It’s the Lord saying, “Surely I will be with you” as he consumes Gideon’s offering with fire.
Notes by Pastor Tony McCall

Who Am I

The same weak Gideon who once fearfully worked the harvest in hiding.
Would stand with holy boldness and just 300 men and the blow their trumpets, break their pitchers and route the hosts of the Midianites!

- There is power is establishing your identity in God!

It’s Esther saying, I can’t go before the king... Surely he will kill me.”
- But Mordecaih reminds her, “You came from nothing to the palace...”
  - Could it be that it was all “for such a time as this?”
- In that moment she realized a powerful truth.
  - I didn’t put myself here, God did!
    - It’ not my life, its his!

I want you to grasp a powerful truth tonight: There is absolute authority in the power of identity!
- You need to come to terms tonight with who you are!
  - There is power, there is purpose, there is authority in your identity!
- You are a child of God.
  - From your mother’s womb, he has called you.
- He knows you better than you know yourself!
  - Still, he has called you!
- He’s familiar with your shortcomings.
  - He knows all about your failures.
  - He knew all of that before he called you.
    - And it didn’t stop him from calling you!
- God has established a purpose for your life.
  - Before you ever saw the light of day, God established a purpose for you.
    - And he has called you according to that purpose.
- Let me tell you who you are:
  - You are his chosen.
    - You are his child.
    - You are the apple of his eye.
    - You are the pursuit of his heart.
  - You are HIS!
- You need to rise up and understand that there isn’t a devil in hell that can stop you when you are in obedience to God’s plan for your life!

That final verse of the passage we read from the 18th Chapter of Chronicles said that God preserved David wherever he went.
- Essentially, God gave him a blank check.
  - Said, whatever you do, I’m going to take care of you!
- David set out, from that meeting, to establish the kingdom that God had promised to him and his children forevermore.
Who Am I

This is what I want you to understand this afternoon: You belong to God and he’s the one who watches over you.
- Its time to take back some things that the enemy has taken from you.
- Its time to claim some things that God has promised you!

CLOSE

In closing, please permit me to introduce another passage of scripture.

1 Kings 8:9

9 There was nothing in the ark save the two tables of stone, which Moses put there at Horeb, when the Lord made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt.

- Scholars agree that during the time that the Ark of the Covenant was captured by the Phillistines the Ark was plundered.
  - You might ask how that could be.
- The answer is simple, the people who stole the ark were heathen people, they were not under the covenant.
  - And we know, from the record of scripture that they were able to touch the ark, handle the ark and even placed gifts within the ark when they finally sent it home – because they were not subject to the blood covenant of the Ark.
  - That’s a whole different subject for a whole different day.
- Suffice it to say that a covenant thief stole the bowl of manna and Aarons budded rod from the Ark.
  - So that it is noted, in 1 Kings, when they brought the Ark into Solomon’s temple that nothing was in it except for the law.
  - I believe that this is included in scripture because it is indicative of the fact that there are certain things in our walk with God that our enemy would like to steal from us.
- The bowl of manna represents the miraculous provision of God.
  - It was there as a testimony that God will meet the needs of his people.
    - That the one who clothes the lily in the valley is the one who looks out for you.
  - And your enemy would like nothing more than to rob you of that confidence.
- The budded rod, I believe, was more personal.
  - It’s presence in the ark was the priest’s passport into the presence of God.
    - That budded rod symbolized his identity as a man of God.
    - It was the indisputable evidence, from God, that the sons of Aaron were chosen by God to minister in his presence.
  - Without that rod in the ark, the man of God would always question his right to minister in the presence of God.
That rod represented his identity.
It was the source of his confidence.
  - Because of that rod, he knew that he knew that he knew that he belonged in the presence of God.

I believe that Hell wants to rob the church of its identity in God.
  - Hell wants to cripple you with the revelation that you are nothing
    - That you are a nobody.
    - That you’re not perfect.
    - That there’s no good in you.
    - That you make mistakes.
    - That you’ve messed up.
    - That you’ve failed God so many times.
  - But I’ve come to tell you tonight that it isn’t about you – it’s all about Him!
    - God has called you!
    - God wants to use you!
    - Right now.
    - Right where you are.
    - God desires to use you!
  - Tonight, you need to settle the issue!
    - You are his!
    - Called for his purpose!
    - Anointed by his own hand!

STAND
Who am I?
  - I’m just a man.
    - But I’m God’s man and that makes all of the difference in the world!
  - It is time for you to step out on the power of your identity in God and claim what god has promised to you!