

## **What if I were to ask you – “who are you”? How would you respond?**

Most people when asked who are you will answer according to their profession. Well, I am a school teacher, I am a stock broker, I am a stay-at-home mom, I am an electrician etc.

Problem is beloved, that is not who you are, it is rather what you do. To ask the question of who are you, it has nothing to do with what you do.

The question asked is really who is the person who is the stay-at-home mother. Who is the electrician or stock broker or school teacher?

Truth is when you drill down and keep asking the question, separating what you do from who you are, it can become a very emotional encounter. Lots of folks have no idea who they are. You have become a slave to what you do, rather than who you are.

If you can get beyond what you do, and concentrate on who you are, it can become a rather interesting encounter. What do you see yourself as, rather than what you do.

Are we communicating?

Further, if you drill down, you are not necessarily what your family sees as who you are. They too very well will match who you are to what you do. Ask a man about his wife, and his response may well be, well, she is my wife, she is the mother of my 3 children, she cares for this or that. All pertaining to what she does, rather than who she is.

All of this is in relation to a scripture located in **Numbers chapter 13, verse 33**.

A little background if you will. You will recall that when Moses sought to spy out the land of Caanan, he brought forth a man from each of the 12 tribes who I believe were probably the best of the best. For simplicity's sake, we will say they were the Navy Seals of each tribe. In each of these men, you had a representative who was probably the cream of the crop of guys.

Their commission was to “spy out the land” before we (Israel) will go in to take the land from them.

When they came back after spying out the land, they looked more like “whipped dogs” than mighty men of valor. They then gave Moses their report. Remember now, 10 of the 12 gave an “evil report”

Even though they brought back “fruit of the land” that was huge, and the land surely did flow with milk and honey as they had been told, yet these men saw major problems with taking the land.

There were “giants” in the land. Descendants of Anak were there, the people who dwell in the land are strong, their cities are fortified and very large (vs 27&28). These giants are 7-9 feet tall. And furthermore, they said “we are not able to go up against these people. In addition, these very tall men had strong bodies, and they were equipped with

armor to protect them. Goliath was one of these people they saw. You remember the clash between David and Goliath.

Now, the key verse here is **verse 33**. It reads as follows: *“there we saw the giants, (descendants of Anak came from the giants), and we were like grasshoppers IN OUR OWN SIGHT, and so we were IN THEIR SIGHT.”*

At the heart of this sentence is; “who are you”?

The result of them seeing themselves as who they are, is what brought the enemy to realize that, “well if that is how they see themselves, we see that also.”

Question remains – how do you see yourself. What do you see yourself to be at a foundational level.

Not what your friends or your family think. Not what social media portrays you as, but who do you say you are? Folks are committing suicide over what others think them to be.

Well, what is your identity? The only one who really knows me, is my creator. He knows all about me. He knows of my strengths, and my weaknesses. He knows of my “down sitting, and my uprising” as scripture says. He is the only one who sees me through the tangled mess of what I do. He fashioned me, made me unique to anyone else on this earth. The only way of knowing myself is to know God. He is the only one who truly knows me.

If I get my identity by what I do, say or feel, that can change in a moment and often does. Who am I as God knows me? At my core, who am I?

One of the main problems in the church today is that we can “hang with folks” and often parrot what they say. We can even espouse what they say, yet never get ahold of what they are saying. Many are “tares that look like wheat” but they will never be wheat. You get my meaning? This is a tough saying, but true none the less.

Look with me at another scripture. In **Luke chapter 23**, Jesus is brought before Pilot on His way to the cross, and Pilot asks Jesus, “Are you the king of the Jews?” The answer Jesus gave is rather astounding. He asks Pilot “*did you speak this of yourself, or did another tell you this*”? NKJ version says; “*it is as you say*” with the understanding that is this something that you know to be true, or did someone else say it was so.

If I may paraphrase what Jesus was asking was, do you have any clue as to who I am or did someone else tell you to say this?

Beloved, we can say the right words, but do I know who I am.

Going back to the 12 spies that went from the wilderness to Caanan. Remember that these folks had seen the miracles that God did to deliver them from Egypt. They have seen the Egyptian first born killed by God. They had seen the plagues that had enveloped the land they were in. They saw how when they left Egypt they took wealth

with them. They had seen the Red Sea part, and seen themselves walking through on dry ground. They had seen the Egyptian army destroyed by God as He drowned them and their horses. They had seen Moses smite the rock for drinking water to come out. They had experienced the manna (read from heaven) and the quails available for food daily.

They had full knowledge of themselves and that they were not just like everyone else on the earth. They were a special people.

Yet, several weeks later, the spies became as grasshoppers in the sight of those who inhabited Caanan.

Well, who changed? Was it God who had been so mighty in their midst? I think not. It was they who changed as they forgot what they had been through and who was there to help them in their time of need.

Do you know yourself as a “special person” to the creator? Do we fully understand what D.N.A. actually is? Have you looked at your hands lately and noticed finger prints that are unique to you and you alone?

Is your identity that of a special person who is totally loved by the Creator?

A challenge before all of us is to look deep into His letter of love to each of us and find out truly who we are. We will know the answer to that when we know Him who created us and what He has to say about us.

Trust me beloved, it is all good.

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