

Self Esteem Issues 08-07-16 AM

In Exodus 4:1-17 there is an exchange between God and Moses about the position that God is commanding Moses to take. Moses had many doubts; he states:

"Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh?" (3:11)

"What shall I say to them?" (3:13)

"What if they will not believe me?" (4:1)

"I have never been eloquent" (4:10)

"I am slow of speech and slow of tongue" (4:10)

We might consider that in Acts 7:22-25 we are told by Stephen that Moses had tried 40 years earlier to lead the children of Israel without success. Too, he is now 80 years old, and he would tell us in his own writing, Psalm 90:10, that 80 is the limit of a man's life. Perhaps then what we are seeing is a man without any self-confidence or self-esteem to see himself capable of the job at hand. He saw himself as having already tried and failed, and now too old to do this job.

Yet God had an answer for every point Moses made:

"Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh?" "I will be with you"

"What shall I say to them?" "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel"

"What if they will not believe me?" "What is in your hand" (Miracles)

"I have never been eloquent" "I will be with your mouth"

"I am slow of speech and slow of tongue" "I will ...teach you what you shall do"

God said in Proverb 23:7 *"for as he thinks in his heart, so is he"*. A multitude of studies in the last forty years indicate that the way we see ourselves determines to a large degree the way we act and react in life. That one's self-perception, self-worth, self-esteem tends to be a governing factor in our life. If we see ourselves as a loser, we end up to a large degree acting like a loser. If we see ourselves as a victim, we tend to let people victimize us. If we see ourselves as uncreative, we never come up with any creative ideas. If we see ourselves as a piece of junk, we begin to think that we are garbage. If we see ourselves as successful then we tend to repeat successes that we've had in the past¹.

Let us consider 1 Peter 2:4-10 and the Royal Priesthood as a means and intent to lift us in our self esteem issues. First, Peter tells us that we are a chosen people, a term used often in the New Testament (Titus 1:1, 2 Timothy 2:10, Colossians 3:12). Being chosen is a big deal; remember in PE when teams were picked for sports? What was it like to be picked first or last? This chosen points to the idea that God chose us (through our obedience) to be on His team.

We also need to see ourselves as a valuable possession to God (Titus 2:14, Ephesians 1:14). We are so valuable to him that He would look for us if just one of us was lost (Luke 15). Too, we are capable in the office of priests of God. As Moses was a capable leader, we are capable to do the

¹ <http://www.lifeway.com/Article/sermon-living-stone-holy-nation-1-peter-2>

work of priests towards God. We are the light of the world (Matthew 5:13-16), and as such preserve the world around us. Finally, we need to understand that we are completely forgiven and forgivable. If we stumble we can confess our sins and be cleansed of all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). Even if our sins are great, we can be forgiven (Isaiah 1:16-18).

We have a terrible habit of destroying our self-value with worldly views. Yet God's view is clear: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness." (Jeremiah 31:3).