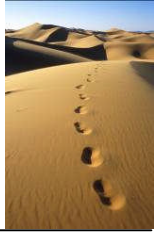


# Freedom, Identity & Purpose: The Gospel of Christ in Exodus

## Exodus 2:11 - 3:11

Pastor Guy Gray ~ River West Church ~ October 1st



## Sermon Notes

Main Points & Verses

Application

## Key Themes & Additional Insights

### **“Who am I?” – The quest for identity**

Moses was a man with “issues.” He was a man with every reason in the world to be confused about his identity! Born an Israelite, he was adopted into an Egyptian family. Born in poverty as a slave child, he was raised with wealth as a royal prince. He was educated in the knowledge and ways of Egypt. But he also learned the promises of God to the patriarchs of Israel. After all that, he was rejected by the Israelite community and then condemned as a criminal by the Egyptians. So he ends up in the desert as part of a Midianite family – as a shepherd for 40 years. Confused? Moses was! Moses is the premier example of someone who must find a new identity that transcends his past, his place, his family, his training. The message of Exodus (and the gospel) is that each of us must do the same. It is only in our relationship with God that this happens. This new identity in Christ takes the details of our previous life background and identity and uses it all, but also transcends it and transforms it.

### **“Gershom” – Giving a name to your pain**

Moses named his son Gershom – meaning “stranger.” This name sums up his pain (and also that of Israel as a whole). Moses felt disconnected. He felt like he didn’t belong. He felt a hurt and a longing deep in his soul. Israel felt the same thing: a slave race in Egypt that was destined to be a kingdom of priests to God in a land of their own. It is good to name our pain. Until we can name it, be real and honest about it, we cannot bring it to God in prayer and faith.

### **“The far side of the desert” – where we meet God and find ourselves**

In the Bible, new beginning almost always takes place in the “wilderness.” See Isaiah 40:1-5 and Mark 1:1-12. Moses spent 40 years in the desert. Acts 7:29-30. Jesus went to the desert. It is the wilderness times of life that prepare us to break free and find our new identity in Christ.

### **“Holy Ground” – the starting point of a new life**

Now Moses is ready to actually encounter God. It is this moment, this vision of God, which will give to Moses a whole new identity. Moses had “issues.” But there is an issue that overshadows all others – the reality of God! In light of this moment all the other issues in Moses life will be transformed. This is how the disciples felt when they encountered Christ the risen Lord on Easter. They had issues, doubts, insecurities and fears. But this was bigger than any of those things – and it launched them into a new beginning.

### **Covenant and personal calling**

Moses had heard of the Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He had heard about the covenant with the fathers. He knew some theology. But now he is personally being called into it by faith. You know some theology. You have heard the gospel of Christ. But now you are being personally called to faith in Christ – personally called to follow. Have you personally answered that call?

## Questions for Further Personal Reflection & Group Discussion

1. Read Exodus 2: 11-25.

What observations can you make about the “journey” that Moses is on?

Why do you think Moses intervened in the situation of the Egyptian beating the Hebrew?

2. Moses is experiencing a major identity crisis. He finds himself alone in the desert, having been rejected by his own people and fleeing Pharaoh.

Have you ever been in a situation where you felt like you didn't belong anywhere or were all alone on your journey? How did that feel?

What did you learn or how did you grow through that experience? How did this impact your relationship or view of God?

Too often we try to find our identity in things other than God. What are some examples of this in your own life?

Read Galatians 3: 26-29 for a New Testament perspective on identity.

3. Why did God lead Moses into the desert? What did he experience there?

Where else in the bible do we see this theme of a “wilderness” or “desert” experience? (See Isaiah 40:1-5, Mark 1:1-2, Acts 7:29-30)

How do you think God uses these experiences in the lives of His people? How do we grow or prepare for the journey before us?

### **Digging Deeper**

How has your faith, or your experience of Christ transformed some of the “issues” you have dealt with in life?

Is there a pain or issue in your life right now that needs to be named? Name it and then surrender it to God in prayer.

What might God be telling you through this lesson with regard to identity?

Think back to a “burning bush” in your life, when God made himself known to you. How have you answered His call? How can you pursue His call further?