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What's My Name?

Genesis 32:24-30, Exodus 3:13-14, 4:10-17, John 8:58, 18-19, John 13:19-20

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Genesis 32:24-30

24 And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day.

25 And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him.

26 And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.

27 And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob.

28 And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.

29 And Jacob asked him, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, thy name. And he said, Wherefore is it that thou dost ask after my name? And he blessed him there.

30 And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.

Exodus 3:13-14

13 And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them?

14 And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

- Moses realizes that his success in Egypt and carrying out his assignment hinged on his ability to know who he was and the question that would be asked him, "Who sent you?"
- Moses by now has presented his case to God about his limitations and inabilities to which God never considers because in Moses limitations God is.
- God occupies the space between 'I can't' so this is why God does not pay any attention and seems to ignore Moses' excuses for why he is not qualified to lead the people out.

- Yahweh being the creator and sustainer of all that exists and thus the Lord of both creation and history, all that is and all that is happening—a God active and present in historical affairs.
- On the other side, God sends Aaron to Moses to be his mouthpiece to speak as an oracle of God.

Exodus 4:10-17

10 And Moses said unto the Lord , O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue.

11 And the Lord said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the Lord ?

12 Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.

13 And he said, O my Lord, send, I pray thee, by the hand of him whom thou wilt send.

Exodus 4:10-17

14 And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses, and he said, Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee: and when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart.

15 And thou shalt speak unto him and put words in his mouth: and I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what ye shall do.

16 And he shall be thy spokesman unto the people: and he shall be, even he shall be to thee instead of a mouth, and thou shalt be to him instead of God.

17 And thou shalt take this rod in thine hand, wherewith thou shalt do signs.

- Proper alignment is critical and connected to a clear understanding source.
- God always overcomes our shortfalls and weaknesses if we are clear about who is the source of our assignment.
- Jesus was clear about his assignments. He was also clear about the source. Jesus was constantly talking about his assignment and the source of his assignment as he related to his disciples and the multitude.

John 8:58

58 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

John 8:18-19

18 I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me.

19 Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also.

John 13:19-20

19 Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he.

20 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

- As we know, Jesus came in this world with a sense of identity, an awareness of his origin, and an unshakable confidence that his mission was a result of that connection.

John 8:58

58 Jesus said unto them, *Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.*

John 6:35

35 And Jesus said unto them, *I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.*

John 8:12

12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, *I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*

John 10:9

9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

John 11:25

25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

John 15:1

15 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

- We understand more clearly that our identity in God is key to the development of our faith.
- Paul makes it clear that those who truly seeks after the true and living God must seek him and believe by faith.