

Cherished-Chosen-Challenged – February 7, 2010

Who Am I ?

“Come now, therefore and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.’ But Moses said to God, ‘Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?’ So He said, ‘I will certainly be with you. And this shall be a sign to you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.’” – Exodus 3:10-12

Can you believe it? Arguing with God! Moses protested that he was a “nobody”; a protest rooted in the idea that he lacked the ability to perform so great a task as leading God’s people out of the bondage of slavery in Egypt to a new land. We can empathize with Moses. We too feel unprepared and ill equipped to be in the service of the Lord. Yet, God calls us, like Moses, to face the challenge of confronting the bondage of sin’s slavery with the witness of the Gospel. Yes, he calls us, ordinary people, to the challenge of service to Him.

Moses protested because his trust was in his own abilities and he found himself lacking. He deemed himself unworthy because he was a sinful man. Again we can empathize. Yet, Moses had been prepared for this hour, chosen as God’s servant to do His bidding. As an infant Moses escaped death floating safely in a pitched covered basket as the waters of the river bore him to a new life. Raised as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, he was surely exposed to the court of royalty where he would eventually be led to do God’s bidding. Moses knew he was a Hebrew and he had compassion for his people. It led him to take matters into his own hands and he murdered an Egyptian who was beating an Israelite. Fleeing because of fear to the land of Midian, the shaping and forming of Moses continued as God molded him for the challenge of his calling.

We can find our own story in the life of Moses. Saved from death in the waters of holy baptism, we have been sheltered in the house of God’s royalty: the Church. Fed on Word and Sacrament we have grown and

matured in our training to be in the service of the Lord, wherever He calls us to go. And, not unlike Moses, we have been willing to thwart God's will in sinful living, because we are convinced we have a better way. But our way leads only to exile and although it is never God's will that we should rebel in sinfulness, He can and does bring good even out of evil in His own time and for His own purpose, that others may know of His love and goodness.

Today God calls again. We have been and always are sufficiently humbled at our lack of success in the kingdom because we have trusted our human designs and orders. We can rightly say with Moses, "Who am I, Lord", to be called for so great a task. We are God's people. Cherished from eternity, we are bought with the price of Christ's lifeblood. Chosen as His dear children through the waters of Holy Baptism, we have been readied for this hour, that we might face the challenge of proclaiming freedom in Christ Jesus to all mankind, to those who are still caught in the snare of the slavery of sin. God is calling us....how shall we answer?

- ❖ Remember: You are God's chosen people. Don't forget the promise. God is always with us, even when we face unprecedented challenges.
- ❖ Remember: Christ died for all people. Share the Good News of Jesus with others as the opportunities present themselves. Let them know that there is hope and they too are the object of God's love.
- ❖ Remember: Human plans and devices always fail. God works through His Word. Study the Word. Share the Word. God will accomplish what He desires through His Word.

How blessed we are to be the people of God. He has chosen us to be in this place. He has prepared us for this time. **Don't wait for someone else to do it. If you wait on someone else to do it...it will never get done!** God bless you in the growth of your faith and in service to Him and His people, for your labor in the Lord is never in vain.

Pastor Jacobs

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