

God is Our Source

01/06/08

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SERMON IDEA STATEMENT:

What does God mean to you? Who is He to you? In this next series we are going to discover that God is everything to us as individuals and as a church. First of all God is our **source**.

Part I: (01/06/08)

INTRODUCTION:

In a sermon I preached about Mary the Mother of Jesus, a couple of weeks before Christmas, I told you something that I need to repeat. We were talking about Mary's participation in a spiritual battle that rages between God and Satan. They are battling for the souls of mankind. The battle rages on today as it draws ever closer to its cataclysmic conclusion. You and I whether we like it or not, are involved in this spiritual battle.

I also told you that you and I have no less a job to accomplish in the Kingdom of God than Mary the mother of Jesus had in her day. She did what she was created to do, that which God had decided for her before the foundation of the world was created. You and I were created unique and before the foundation of the world God had planned something for us to do as a part of His Church the Body of Christ.

The big problem with most Christians in the church today is they don't know what God created them to be. Most don't know what their talents are, and as a result the church suffers.

We are in the start of a new year. I told you that this is a time for reflection and change not just as individuals, but also as a local congregation.

Does God still have more for us to do? Personally I do not believe God is through with Mountain View. I believe God is teaching me a way in which we can move forward together. This is not some new program. This is not a new Bible study or small group program that we will go through and soon forget. This is a new way of thinking about how we can BE the church instead of how we can DO church. It starts with all of us working together to discover what God has created us to be as individuals, what talents he created in each of us. Then we must work together to use those talents that God created in us to do our function in the Body of Christ.

Remember the Greek word overshadow that we looked at in that sermon on Mary? It is used to describe God's personal intervention and action in the world He created. This Greek word (g1982) is only used to describe three events in the New Testament.

1. Overshadow is used to describe the power of God coming over Mary to bring Messiah into the world for the salvation of mankind. ([Luke 1:35](#))
2. Overshadow is used to describe the power of God descending on the mountain top when Christ was transfigured. This is when God came down to confirm that Jesus was His Son, doing His will here on earth. ([Matthew 17:5](#); [Luke 9:34](#))
3. Overshadow is used to describe the shadow of Peter that touched and healed the sick people that were laid in the streets as Peter would walk by. It is God's confirmation of the continuing work of His Son here on earth through the church. ([Acts 5:15](#))

This word overshadow is used to describe God's personal intervention and action in the world He created. What if God were to overshadow His church, the Body of Christ, in 2008? Can you imagine what could be accomplished for His eternal Kingdom? What if God were to overshadow our church in 2008? And, what if you and I were to step out in faith to accomplish His will? I believe He wants to do that here at Mt. View this year. As His called pastor I set before you that working together, we are going to step forward, not backward in 2008.

In 2008 our focus is going to be a focus of discovering who God created us to be. By the power of God we are going to discover the unique person He made us to be by discovering the talents He created in us as individuals. He hard wired into us some specific talents that He intended us to use in our personal lives and in His Kingdom. With the help and guidance of God and the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, we will learn how to strengthen and use these talents to better our personal lives and our church. In this process we are going to let the Power of God Overshadow us so that we at Mt. View can carry on God's purpose and will, both in our personal lives and in our church.

Wow! Easily said isn't it. However, I know as well as all of you know, that this will not be an easy transition for any of us. So! How do we do this? Where do we start?

We start by understanding that God is God and He is everything to us.

- He is our Source.
- He is our Direction.
- He is our Place.
- He is our Craftsman.
- He is our Energy.
- He is our Gift.
- He is our Mission.
- He is our Completion.
- He is our Uniqueness.
- He is our Unity.

First He is our **SOURCE**:

[Eph 1:4 (NASB)] just as He chose us / in Him / before the foundation of the world, / that we would be holy and blameless before Him.

God knew us and chose us before the creation of the world. Our **Source** is God: He made us just the way He wants us to be.

People don't know who they are. They know what their name is and what they do in life but they don't know who they are. Let me ask you a question. Who are you? The first thing that comes to my mind when asked this question is my name. But does that really describe who I am or just how people get my attention or identify me as distinct from others in a crowd? To really describe who I am I need to know who God created me to be. So I, like everyone else, need to discover who He created me to be, that's who I am, who He created me to be.

If a stranger asks us the question, "Who are you?", we probably answer with our name followed by our career choice. "My name is David Bostick, I am a pastor."

If someone at work asks you who you are, you probably answer with your job title and description, your function at work.

If you are in college and someone asks who you are. You will probably answer with your name and what your major is.

If you are at church and someone asks you who you are, you probably answer with your name followed by what job or ministry you do in the church.

If someone who knows you intimately asks you who you are, what would you answer? Let's say God, who knows you better than you know yourself, asks you who you are, what would you say to Him? Remember that He knows your name, career, habits good and bad, sins, thoughts, and desires. God knows every detail about every moment of your life, so how would you answer Him when He says to you, who are you? After a long time of thinking about this question my answer was this... "I am a servant of the King of Kings." I was proud of my answer. It was well thought out and it satisfied me. But at last, that is still not adequate because it does not show me as distinct or unique from the hundreds of thousands of others who are also servants of the King of Kings. So, who am I? Who are you?

As I did this study I wondered if there were individuals in the Bible that stated who they were with a description that went beyond their name, or job description, or function in life. In fact there are four examples that we are familiar with from our last sermon series.

- Who was Esther? I mean who did Esther say she was?

[Esther 4:15] Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, **[16]** "Go, assemble all the Jews who are found in Susa, and fast for me; do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maidens also will fast in the same way. And thus I will go in to the king, which is not according to the law; and **if I perish, I perish.**"

That's who Esther was. Her name was Esther. As a young teenager she had been taken and made Queen of one of the greatest empires in history. She has servants and power and wealth and prestige. But at last all of those things do not say who Esther was, they only describe what people called her. They only describe her lot or her function in life. But the words, **"if I perish, I perish"**, that is who Esther really was. You see her cousin Mordecai understood this when he was telling her that her life and the lives of all the Jews were in grave danger. Listen to his words...

[Esther 4:13] Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not imagine that you in the king's palace can escape any more than all the Jews. **[14]** "For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father's house will perish. **And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?"**

You see Esther was created by God for this specific purpose. The words, **"if I perish, I perish"**, that is who Esther really was. Nothing else in her whole lifetime really mattered. I tell you this morning that you and I have no less important a function to perform in the Kingdom of God that Esther had. God created you and He created me unique so we could perform a specific function in His Kingdom here on earth. Won't it be wonderful to discover how God hard wired us as a unique individual, and how He wants to use us in new and exciting ways in His Kingdom.

- Who was Araunah? I mean who did Araunah say he was?

[2 Samuel 24:22] Araunah said to David, "Let my lord the king take and offer up what is good in his sight. Look, the oxen for the burnt offering, the threshing sledges and the yokes of the oxen for the wood. **[23]** **"Everything, O king, Araunah gives to the king."** And Araunah said to the king, "May the LORD your God accept you."

Who was Araunah? **"Everything, O king, Araunah gives to the king."** That's who Araunah was.

- Who was Mary? I mean who did Mary say she was?

[Luke 1:37] "For nothing will be impossible with God." **[38]** And Mary said, **"Behold, the**

bondslave of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Who was Mary? “Behold, the bondslave of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word.”

- Who was Joseph? I mean who did Joseph say he was? **[Matthew 1:24]** And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife, **[25]** but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.

Who was Joseph? “Joseph... did as the angel of the Lord commanded him...”

When Esther, Araunah, Mary, and Joseph took hold of God’s hand and did what He created them to do they were showing us that God was the very **SOURCE** of their life. Everything they had, every dream for the future, every action of life, every talent and ability came from God, He was their **source**.

In our culture we seek, by our own power and means, to have earthly treasures above all else. We apply this self effort to our work in the Kingdom of God in the way we do church and ministry. And we wonder why the church in America is on the decline and has been for many years. It is time to change that. It is time to begin to claim new souls for the Kingdom of God instead of shifting warm bodies from church building to church building, from this program to that program. It is time we started being the church instead of doing church. It is time all of us started working together as the Body of Christ. It is time we found out who we really are and what God created us to be.

That brings me to my next point. God created us to be something specific in His Body the Church. We each need to find out what that is and begin to strengthen and use it in our personal lives and for the Kingdom of God.

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