

"But I Am Not Enough: // Not God Enough #3 // Exodus 3:1–14; 20:7

Prison Campus Video (Blue Card Training)

Welcome to TSC...

To those of you new around here, we are **1 church that meets in 11 locations, 2 of which meet inside the walls of local prisons.**

Several years ago, **God made it clear** that we as a church were supposed to minister to HOPUD... **These are the kinds of things we can do specifically because of your generosity.**

As Tim and Jamie—who are dear friends and some of the fiercest prayer warriors here at TSC—the **men's prison in particular is in need of 50 men who are willing to mentor other men inside the prison. It doesn't cost anything**—you just have to be willing to pour into someone, invest a little bit of your life into theirs, and make a disciple out of them. At this very moment we have men who have requested a sponsor that we simply don't have yet.

The way you become a sponsor/mentor is through what's called **blue card training**. Now **blue card training only happens once a year**, and that time is coming up in the next few weeks.

For a lot of you, you've been wondering how God is calling you to get involved in serving here at the Summit...I'm believing alongside Tim and Jamie that God is calling 50 of you right now to at least take a step of faith and at least **have the conversation**. Signing up is not a

Works Consulted:

“When God Seems Inactive,” “When God Seems Late,” “When God Seems Uncooperative,” Craig Groeschel
“Burning Bush,” Jen Wilkin

commitment to anything, it's just the beginning of a conversation. So, at the end of our services today, if you think God might be calling you to this, we'll have someone at any of our Next Steps areas that would love to begin that conversation with you.

(Plus, **Tony Diana** – our Summit Prison Campus Pastor and local Rocky Balboa (**PIC**) – said that if at least 50 people don't sign up he's gonna get a Summit Directory and start knocking on some doors, and trust me, this is the LAST guy you want showing up unhappy on your doorstep.)

Introduction

Exodus 3: This is our 3rd and final week of a short series we are doing called *Not God Enough*.

The big idea is that **all of our spiritual problems** go back to a view of God that is too small.

- The **1st week we saw in the story of Job** that a lot of our doubts come from the fact that we assume that God is only a slightly bigger, slightly smarter version of us and so we should be able to easily grasp his purposes.
- The **2nd week we saw that one of our ongoing temptations** is to reshape God into a form we like better. That kind of God for a **while feels easier to believe in**, but only ends up corrupting us spiritually and disappointing us bitterly.

So, we've seen that doubt and unhappiness come from a view of God that is too small. Today, I want to show you how the universal experience of insecurity—that feeling that we are “not enough” to face life's challenges—also comes from a view of God that is too small.

In the book, I tell the story of experiencing insecurity one night when I found myself standing face to face with a group of convicted felons. You say—I'd probably experience insecurity then, too. But it's probably not what you are thinking. I'm referring to a meeting I had with some of our brothers in the prison ministry.

- One of them told me that he had always assumed that as his release day approached he would be overwhelmed by the excitement and anticipation of restarting his life, but instead the main emotion he was feeling now that the day was approaching was fear. He said, "What if I don't have what it takes to function in the real world anymore?" He said, "I messed up so bad the 1st time, what if I end up doing it again?"

Insecurity is that voice inside you that whispers, "I am not _____ enough." What most often goes into that blank for you? I am not... good-looking enough; athletic enough; young; smart; funny; spiritual...

- Capable enough—you feel like life is this delicious bowl of soup and you are a fork
- Maybe you just got hired for a job and now you're not sure you can do it, and, what's worse, and you are pretty sure nobody else thinks you can do it, either.
 - You are pretty sure that when you see others gathered around the water cooler and they are laughing about something, it is you
- Or maybe you have just embarked on some new phase of life—being a mom, a new assignment in your career, going into retirement—and you're not sure you have what it takes to succeed in this chapter.
 - Every parent feels like this. Nothing destroys your feelings of competence like having kids. I heard a guy say that the only possible way to be happy as a parent is to lower your expectations.
- Or, maybe you started dating someone and not sure if you measure up to their family's expectations. One guy said that every

family dinner felt like a try-out and he felt like at some point he was going to be asked to excuse himself so that the family could vote on him... Some of you are married and you still feel that way.

- I know of one guy who said that a girl broke up with him because she said he was too insecure. He said, "How is that going to help me? If I was insecure before...?"
- Maybe you feel like God has called you to a ministry you feel utterly incapable for...
 - (I know many of our church planters feel this way. Illus. Andrew in G-boro: moved to Greensboro. Unpacked moving truck. Sitting now with my laptop at coffee shop, looking for unsuspecting people to talk to. What else am I supposed to be doing?)

All of us, at some point, experience insecurity. Instagram and Twitter have made this 1000x worse, because no matter what you do, there's always somebody out there doing it better.

- I refuse to go on Instagram around Valentine's Day because no matter what I have done for my wife there's always some guy out there putting me to shame. I'm feeling pretty good because I got my wife a dozen roses and took her to her favorite restaurant; then I'll see some friend from college who got his girl a pony and took her backpacking through Europe. I hope V doesn't see...

Exodus 3 opens up with Moses as a pretty insecure man. Moses had started out his life with a lot of confidence... He was a good-looking guy in a high paying job—he was Pharaoh's adopted son. But then he'd felt like God wanted him to do something—namely, to deliver Israel, but when he tried it things went bad: the Jewish people mocked and rejected him, Pharaoh disowned him, and he ended up killing a man.

- (That's a bad day at work, right? Everyone hates you, your boss fires you, and you kill someone on the way out to the parking lot?)

Well, he flees to the desert, where he ends up marrying a nomad girl and spends the next 40 years there. That brings us to chapter 3:

Exodus 3:1 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law.... When you are 60 still living in the corner of your father-in-law's tent taking care of his sheep, that's serious "failure to launch." and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up.

³ So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up." ⁴ ... And God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am."

⁵ "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."

⁶ Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians... ¹⁰ So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

¹¹ But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt? Wait! When did we start talking about Moses? **Up until this point, the conversation has been about God** and what God wanted to do. But now Moses makes himself the point of the conversation.

Commentators say this reveals the deep insecurities Moses was carrying around from his previous failures.

- In fact, **they point out the statement "Who am I?" is an echo** of the very question that the Israelites **had thrown in Moses's face** the 1st time he tried to rescue them. Back in chapter 2 when he had announced his plans to deliver them, they had said, "**Who** are you and **why** would we follow you?" (Ex 2:14)
- **Moses's repetition of this question** shows us that their doubts had seeped into his soul.
- **Maybe that has happened to you:** Somebody criticized you for so long you started to believe those things about yourself. A dad. An ex-spouse. An abusive boss. They **threw shade** at you for so long that you started to believe them.
- **This is what happened to Moses.**

¹² But God said, "I will be with you. (This is **important**: Notice how **God deals with Moses's insecurities**—not in the way we usually do it, by reinforcing Moses with positive thoughts or helping him discover his inner tiger. He didn't say,

- "Moses, look into the mirror and repeat after me: 'My name is Moses. I am a bad man...'"
- "Now, Moses, visualize walking in to Pharaoh's court and experience the feeling of taking him down. Now open your eyes and say, "**I am Moses.**"

None of that. God just **subtly shifts the narrative** back to himself. He says, "**But I will be with you.**" And that's because real confidence, genuine bravery, comes not from a better assessment of your potential but a clearer view of God.*

But Moses **still doesn't get it**, so he keeps talking about his deficiencies.

Notice, vs 13, he says, "Well, what if this or that happens... What should I do then?" (v. 13).

Vs. 14, God totally ignores Moses's question, and instead spends the next 9 verses focusing entirely on what he, God, has done, is doing, and will do.¹

He says, "Moses, this is **not about you having what it takes. This is about me** accomplishing my purposes. You have a role in that, Moses. But the power, the success in it—that belongs to me."

- I don't need you to be a **VICTOR**, Moses, just a vessel.

Let me say it again: Confidence comes not from discovering greater things about yourself or tapping into your potential. Confidence comes from seeing how big and powerful God is, discovering his purposes for your life, and getting swept up in them.

- **Reminds me of the story I heard while in Indo about a group of fishermen who were discovered floating off the coast of one of the islands out there holding on to the wreckage of a ship. The authorities picked them up, and the fishermen complained about being attacked by a cow from heaven...**
- **Now, I have no way to verify if that story is true. But, if it is, I have to wonder what was in the fishermen's minds as they saw this cow plummeting toward them from the skies. We better MOOVE. Or what was going through the cow's mind... probably his udder. Udder destruction. Sorry, no more cow puns. But I had to milk this for all it is worth.**
- **In many ways, when we discover God's purposes we are a little bit like that cow who is walking along thinking only about the next bite of grass when we step onto a runway with forces so powerful we can scarcely imagine them.**

Many people make a critical mistake in reading the Bible. They assume the Bible is primarily about them, a manual of spiritual tips for helping them achieve a victorious Christian life. **The Bible is primarily about God not you.** Page after page reveals who he is, and

only when you come to an awareness of who he is can you discover who you are. **Only by becoming confident** in his purposes will you ever become confident in yours.

Many of you have tried to find the will of God but you've put all the emphasis on MY. You need to discover the will of God for the world, and only then can you discover his will for you.

Some of you have approached God trying to see how he can help you achieve your life's purposes. You've got it all wrong. We are supposed to approach God surrendering to his. And that's where confidence and a real sense of purpose begins.

So, this is what God keeps trying patiently to show Moses. And he drives his point home by the introduction of a name. ¹³ Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"

¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

- **God's name is not a name, per se.** It's a verb. In Hebrew: *ha-yah*. **Everybody say it: HA-YAH.**² (Almost like you are karate chopping someone.)
- **We write it Yahweh or Jehovah.** It literally means "I am."
- God is saying, "Moses, I am **not like anything you've ever experienced.** I don't have needs. I don't require any help. I don't get tired, I have no limits. I **did not have a beginning and I will not have an ending.** I am unbounded, unchanging, always and forever the same. So I'm not intimidated by Pharaoh or limited by your inabilities.

¹ Jen Wilkin, *Women of the Word* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2014), pp. 23–27

² To be precise, the actual form used in Ex 3:14 is *eh-yeh* ("I am") from the verb *ha-yah* ("to be")

- The **burning bush** is supposed to give us a glimpse of God's eternal, self-sustaining nature.
 - The **fire burned continually** in the bush without burning up the bush.
 - **Fires need fuel**, and when they consume the fuel they go out.
 - **The fire Moses saw, however, was self-sustaining.** It didn't require anything.
 - **In the same way**, God, **the eternal I AM, needs no external fuel.** Nothing precedes him. Nothing sustains him. Nothing contains him.
- "And so, **Moses**," **God says**, "if I, the eternal 'I AM,' am on your side, you won't need anything else. **All those places in your life you feel like you aren't**, I am. It's no longer about who you are, it is about who I am."

You know, when you step back and think about it, Moses actually did have a lot of undiscovered potential and he had been uniquely equipped to accomplish this task God has calling him to.

- **Think about it: For the past 40 years Moses has led sheep** through the very wilderness God wanted Israel to escape through. That meant he knew the terrain, the mountain passes, and the watering holes.
- Plus, **as a herder of sheep** he knows something about managing unruly crowds.
- And, **as a former son of Pharaoh**, he's learned how to read and write legal documents, set-up a government, and so forth
 - **(This should be like his Karate Kid/Mr. Miyagi moment.)**
 - But Moses can't see that because he was dominated by the insecurities that **always** come when you focus on yourself.
 - You will always be not.
- **In time, he will come to see these things and appreciate God's sovereign preparation** of him for the task.
- **But what is most interesting is that God, in trying to give Moses confidence, doesn't point any of that out, even though it was true.** He doesn't say, "Moses, wake up! I have been preparing you! You

have what it takes!" Instead, he simply says, "Moses, I am with you. Walk forward in confidence, knowing that what I have called you to, I will supply you for."

- **And as Moses did that**, he started to see how God had indeed been ever-present in his life, preparing him all along for this great work.
- **What if you looked at your life with the eyes of faith... believing** that in everything, the good and the bad, the exciting and the disappointing, the tragedies and the triumphs... a sovereign, loving God was behind it all preparing you for his purposes—and **that that same God is now calling you forward**, trusting that the One who faithfully prepared you will faithfully see you through?

You see where confidence comes from?

God doesn't deal with Moses's insecurities by teaching him anything about himself, even though Moses had a lot to learn. In this moment, God deals with Moses's insecurities by calling him to focus on who God was. **Confidence doesn't come from a clearer self-assessment, but a clearer view of God.**

So, when Moses says, "But God, I am not... Eloquent enough. Smart. Successful." God responds, "I didn't choose you because you were any of those things. I have enough of all those things for the both of us. You are not, but I am, God enough."

- In fact, throughout Scripture we learn that God **doesn't often choose the guy** that says, "Oh, I know why God chose me. I was so talented he just had to have me on his team!" That kind of guy just **clogs up the line**. When they accomplish something great they say, "Finally the world is recognizing my talents!"
- **God prefers instruments who are broken**, who feel insufficient... who know they have to lean on him.
 - **That's why Paul says in 1 Cor: Not many mighty; not many eloquent, rich or powerful.** He chooses the weak and the despised so that the glory will go to him.

- I would actually go so far as to say: *Feeling inadequate is a prerequisite to being used by God.*

Moses says,

- “But God... I am not good enough.” And God says, “I know, I am...”
- “God I am not skilled enough...” “I am.”
- “God I am not confident enough.” “I am...” (Find your confidence in me.)

God says, “Moses, I am the God of very unpromising material. You may not be, but I always am, and my “am-ness” overcomes your “not-ness.”

At our Christmas at DPAC services, I told you that throughout Israel’s history, God would re-invoke this ‘I AM’ name whenever Israel was in a time of great need, and attach to it whatever they lacked; whatever he planned to supply for them in himself.

- The name “I AM” is used 6519x in the OT alone!

(And I know I went through some of this at Christmas at DPAC, but I consider what I’m about to share like a good meal at a restaurant—if I have a great meal at a restaurant, I don’t say to my wife, “Well, I tasted that once, I’m satisfied for the rest of my life.” No, I say, “When can we go back there again and have that same thing?” I was at a meeting in Nashville and the guy I was there with took me to... I don’t say, “Well, I’m glad I got to experience that once?” No, next time I go to Nashville I am going back to that... . PESTO WRAPPED TOFU SOYBEAN BURGER

God’s use of the “I AM” name throughout Scripture is like the whole gospel, a meal that is so satisfying and life-giving you want to return to it again and again!

- In Exodus, when the people of Israel were wounded and sick because of their sin, God revealed himself as Jehovah Rapha (literally, I AM your healer)
- In Leviticus, when Moses laid out the law—the great description of how to walk uprightly with God, the people said, “Who could ever live this way?” God answered with Jehovah Mekoddishkem (I AM your Sanctifier, I am the God who enables you to walk with me)
- When Jeremiah was discouraged by Israel’s persistent inability to walk faithfully before God, and said, “How can we survive? We are so sinful!” God said Jehovah Tsidkenu (I AM your righteousness)
- In Ezekiel’s day, when the people of Israel felt scared and alone and besieged by enemies all around, God said Jehovah Shammah (I AM the God who is ever present)
- When David felt lost and confused, with no friends left in the world, he called God Jehovah Raah (The Lord my I AM your Shepherd)
- To Abraham, who faced an impossible circumstance with no seeming way out, God said Jehovah Jireh (I AM your Provider)
- And to Isaiah, who wasn’t sure how he would survive another day, God said Jehovah Sabaoth (I AM your Defender the God who fights for you)

In the New Testament, Jesus takes this “I AM” name to himself³ and applies it very intimately to our greatest areas of brokenness and need:

- To those who **hunger**, he says, (John 6:35) “I am the bread of life.”
- To those who **thirst**, he says, (7:38–39) “I am the living water.”
- To those in **darkness**, Jesus declares, (John 8:12) “I am the light.”
- To those who **need a fresh start**, (John 10:9) he says, “I am the door.”

³ John 1:14, 18; 8:58

- To those who feel **abandoned**, (John 10:11) “I am the Good Shepherd.”
- To those who feel **lost (John 14)**, Jesus says, “I am the way.”
- To those **confused**, “I am the truth.”
- To those **afraid of** death, “I am the life.”

These are want Jesus wants to be to you. To the unrighteous, Jesus says, “I will your righteous covering.” To the powerless he says, “I will be your defense.” To the empty he says, “I’ll be your fullness.” To the dead, he says, “I’ll be your resurrection,” and to the defeated he says, “I’ll be your hope.”

To those who got overlooked, cut from the team or passed over for promotion, God says, “I have a plan for you to use you in a significant way in my kingdom, to give you a future and a hope and make you a blessing.”

The Bible’s message, you see, is not about your self-actualization. The Bible is about God: what God for you and what he can accomplish through you.

- **The gospel** is not that God would help us become righteous enough for him—it’s that Jesus was righteous in our place and died the death we should have died so that we could be given his righteousness as a gift in his place.
 - **How can I know I am right with God? Jehovah Tsidkenu**
- **The Christian life is not about moral improvement.** It’s about **Christ working the power of a new life** in you and through you.
 - How do I know I can succeed as a father or overcome temptations? **Jehovah Mekkidoshkem**
 - **Phil 1:6;** faithful is he who called you...**Jude 24**
 - **Only one person in all of history** was ever able to live the Christian life successfully; and he was so good at it, they named it for him.
 - And **now he lives in you**, so you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you.

Why can I be confident? Jireh

Why am I not afraid? Sabaoth, Shammah

How do I know my mistakes don’t disqualify me from the future?
Rapha. My scars don’t have the last word; his do.

Jesus = YESHUA

For all that we need, all that we lack, all that we could never be in ourselves, Jesus is the great I AM.

I am not enough; you are not enough; Moses was not enough; but God is God enough for Moses and me and you.

You see, I know that you come in this weekend carrying around all kinds of deficiencies and worries and insecurities and feelings of inadequacy as a parent, husband, worker, student, Christian or whatever.

- Scripture says, “You don’t really even know the half of it!”
 - **You’re so weak**, you can’t even guarantee you’ll be around tomorrow.
 - **So small, it’s a sin** if you promise you’ll do something tomorrow...
 - You are like a **wisp of smoke** (James 4) or **blade of grass** (James 5)... the slightest shift in wind direction, the slightest change in temperature, and you are gone.
 - In the **scope of the universe you’re so small and insignificant and pitiful** you don’t amount to a grain of sand on the ocean floor.
 - **You’re so powerless** that Jesus said that apart from him you couldn’t do anything good.
 - **So wicked he had to die to save you.**

- **So evil** that the book of Romans declares that literally nothing good that dwells in your flesh—and if that anything good is at work in you it is God who is working in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.
- I know you might say at this point, "Well thanks. That is uplifting. I'm so glad I came to this weekend. Thank you, Pastor J.D., for making me feel like nothing. Thanks for making me feel small..."
- I am not trying to make you feel small. I am telling you that you ARE small. There is a big difference.⁴
- Because only when you see that YOU ARE NOT, are you ready to lean into the great I AM.

After Christmas at DPAC, one of our pastors wrote a poem about this, one I thought was worth sharing with you. He calls it “enough.”

“ENOUGH.”⁵

A word so simple, so captivating, so full of promise.

Yet so full of deceit.

Beckoning me toward a paradise that ever eludes me,
A beautiful garden whose fruits are always fresh—but always out of reach.

...Because I am *not* enough.

Not smart enough,
Not strong enough,
Not caring enough or good enough or successful enough or beautiful enough.

Not enough to meet the simple challenges of today,

Not enough for the weighty troubles of tomorrow,
Not enough to feel at peace right now.
Not enough, *not nearly enough*, to offer anything of worth to an infinitely worthy God.

I am not.

But he already knows.
And he says to me, “I AM.”

I am not smart enough,
Or strong enough,
Or caring or good or sufficient or successful or beautiful or ... *God enough*.

I am not God enough to satisfy the endless demands of that deceptive word, “enough.”

And I was never meant to be.

But these lips of mine *are* bold enough to cry for help.
These hands of mine, weak and empty, *are* ready enough to be filled.
This heart of mine—deceived and deceiving—is still desperate enough to yearn for paradise.

Only one God is God enough to give us that green and garden paradise.
The God of everything chooses to be the God of this nothing heart.
He takes me as his own. This is enough.

This is enough.

I am not.

⁴ Louie Giglio, message, “I am not but I know I am.”

⁵ By Chris Pappalardo

He already knows.

And he says to me, "I AM."

When you realize that God has declared his great I AM name to you in the midst of **your insecurities**—that should make you **read the 3rd commandment** in a different light.

The 3rd Commandment is: **"You shall not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain." (Ex 20:7)**

- This was **always taught to me** as "Don't use God's name as an exclamation: Do not say, Oh my God, or Jesus Christ" or something like that. And that is certainly true.
- But this was **not just a command** on how to **use God's name**; it is a command about how to **take** God's name.⁶
- **And I told you to think of it like this:**
 - In time past, there was a beautiful girl named Veronica Marie McPeters, and on the greatest day of her life she dropped the McPeters part and became a Greear. When she took my name, she became part of me. One with me. All that was mine became hers. (**It wasn't that much.**)
- **Well, in the same way**, when you became a Christian, you **took the name of God** to yourself, the name, I am.
 - **That means** that what he is, you now have.
 - The **Apostle Peter** declares what we became actual participants in the divine nature; the **Apostle Paul proclaims us as inheritors** of all the divine promises—all the promises of God to us, he says, are yes in Christ Jesus.
- **And THAT means that when we say no to God, or falter in courage, because we think, "I am not ____ ENOUGH, we are taking his name in vain, because even though we are not, he is, and we have become one with him.** What he is, he now is for us and through us.

⁶ Steven Furtick, message on Exodus 3 preached at Elevation Church. Much of the below is adapted from his use of it.

- **You say, "God, I can't be a good parent."** He says, "I can."
 - You say, "I can't make it." He says, *I can*.
 - **You say, "I am so doubtful."** He says, "But I am so faithful."
 - **You say, "God, I am so dysfunctional."** He says, "But I am so complete."
 - **You say, "I am so deficient."** He says, "Yet I am so sufficient."
 - **You say, "I am so sinful."** He says, "And I am so graceful."
 - **You say, "I am at the end of my rope!"** He says, "I've got another one, and it's as long as eternity."⁷

And so, when **the Pharaohs** in our lives say to us, "Who do you think you are?" We respond, "I don't think I am anything... but I know the GREAT I Am!"

- And when the **haters in our own hearts** whisper, "You are not..." we shout back, "You are right. But he is, and now I am in him."

So, my challenge to you this week: NAME **your insecurity... Write it out.** Say, "I am not _____ enough." But then write out after that, "Yet in Christ, I am _____" and put in the sufficiency of Christ's character—whatever Jesus is. Sufficient. Righteous. More than a conqueror. Fully equipped.

Feeling inadequate is a prerequisite to being used by God. When God called the Apostle Paul, he was a defeated, destroyed hot mess like Moses. Honestly, y'all, that almost seems par for the course. But God said to him essentially what he said to Moses, (Acts 26:16), "But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, (my purpose) to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you."

Who is the actor? Christ. The **focus, again, is on Christ and his work**, not Paul and his potential. And because of that we can be confident that he that began a good work in us will complete it.

⁷ Adapted from both Louis Giglio and Steven Furtick sermons on this passage.

- (**MUSIC**) Arguably, one of the most men who accomplished the most in history was **William Wilberforce**, whose efforts brought the slave trade to an end.
- But he was one of the most **physically unimpressive** men you'd ever imagine.⁸
- **Severe scoliosis – hunchback**—history book I was looking at called him "elfish, misshapen little figure." Kids at school constantly mocked him, called him shrimp, would put him on the table and make fun of him.
- But he discovered the purposes of God, stepped out on the runway, and felt heaven's wind at his back and changed the world.
- What he discovered was not his inner potential, but the purposes of God to bring salvation to the world.

Some of you, like him, feel like you have nothing to offer. Others of you, like Paul, are flat on your face! God's word to you is, "Get up! Stop looking at your limitations, and look instead at the power and faithfulness of the Christ who is calling you.

You say, "I can't!" He says, "I can! Follow me and watch me do it through you."

- Christ in you, your righteous standing before God
- Christ in you, the power of new life.
- Christ in you, your sufficiency in all things.
- Christ in you, the hope of glory.

So, again: **confidence in life comes not from self-actualization** or discovering your potential. It comes from not looking at yourself at all, but instead at the **size of the ONE** who is calling you.

It's like I've said all throughout this series—all of our spiritual problems go back to a **view of God** that is too small.

You were created to find your identity and your sufficiency in the arms of an everlasting God.

- That's why some of you are so **dissatisfied**. You are living in a universe so small, a universe about only your hopes and dreams.
 - **Trying to fit God in on the corners of your life.** You'll never be satisfied that way.
 - You were created for eternal significance in God's eternal purposes.
- Many of you feel **insecure and unconfident** about your future because you've never discovered the confidence that comes from living according to his purposes.

So, here's the question: Are you ready **fundamentally re-orient** your life? To **quit trying to fit God in** at the margins, and **abandon yourself to his agenda**? To find your identity in his purposes?

That means total surrender to him. Offering a blank check of your life to God. Saying, "I don't want to try to fit you into my purposes; I want to surrender to yours."

And if you pray that, what that means is that you'll get involved in your local church because that's how God reveals those purposes to you. That's where he shows you his plan and your role in it. (The difference in those of you who follow through with this and those of you who don't is whether you get involved in the local church. Some of you get really moved by this—I **appreciate your emotional response and your prayer**, but act on it. **THE differnence...**)

So, that's a **good place to end** this series. **BOW HEADS**

- **Are you surrendered?**
- **Are you pursuing his plan of discovery** in a local church?

⁸ [William Wilberforce: Greatest Works](#)

