

God's Power– The Name of God 2/9/2020

SermonTalk is an optional resource for those who desire to underscore and apply key concepts from the sermon the previous week. The format and questions are just a menu from which you can choose or use as a foundation for further questions. The material written in bold are Pastor Jeremiah's key points for our focus.

- If the church were to interview you, what jobs, accomplishments & training would be on your resume?
- How would you answer, "What strengths do you bring to this church?" What weaknesses would you bring?"

UBC has been on a spiritual journey through the story of Moses to discover God's Power. Last week, Pastor Jeremiah emphasized the hope that is found in recognizing and resting in the overwhelming power of God. When we find all our strength in His power, it changes our perspective of our abilities.

- Based on your experience, why would someone overstate their skill level and experience on a resume they send out?
- How would you distinguish natural talent from the gifts of God? Is there a difference?

People often struggle with the question, "Who am I?" We are uncertain of our true strengths and skills. We may even be unsure of our own ability to develop a skill or if what is needed is a natural aptitude that direction.

In our passage today, we visit a familiar story from Exodus where Moses encounters the power of God. Have someone read **Exodus 3:7-15** aloud for the group to get familiar with the story. In these eight verses, we discover a lot about God and a lot about humanity.

- What assignment did God give to Moses?
- How did Moses respond?
- Who carries most of this conversation? Why do you think that is?

Let's start our discussion by looking closely at Moses. He doesn't have much to say. But what he does say tells us a lot about humanity. The tentative nature of Moses shines through in this passage, almost acknowledging his weakness before Pharaoh, the personification of human power. The question that Moses asks is really one of, "Who am I?" An internal dialogue that we often have as well. Depending on the season of life, we may consider ourselves too strong (I got this) or we focus on our weakness (Who am I to do this). There are seasons we go through when our strength and power is tested.

- Who is a person you can point to (good or bad, real or fiction) who came to a situation with boldness and courage to take control?
- When have you come into a situation where you felt weak and uncertain of what to do or even if you had what it took to address the situation?

Both responses come with positives and negatives. If we come from strength, we have boldness and courage. Yet failure is a huge fall because of personal pressure. We make God an observer and we try to do it on our own.

If we come from weakness, we are vulnerable and humble. Yet we manage a small life with no adventure, risk, courage or faith. We are focused on playing it safe. We don't live the big life that God has planned for us.

Moses' question to God is a question of capability. Are you capable of rescuing these people? Because you haven't done it yet. Pharaoh has been in charge for a significantly long time.

God's answer to Moses is more than a simple response to, "What shall I say your name is?" God's answer, (YHWH) is a tetragrammaton. Interpreted, I am who I am. The bigger answer is that I am God. I am with you. I am here. I always am.

The passage begins with God sharing that he has seen the suffering. He will deliver them to a better place. And the passage ends with a promise from God that he will be with Moses, working a miracle by providing deliverance. The promised deliverance points to the fact that it doesn't matter who you are, your strengths or your weaknesses. It matters who you are with. You have an almighty God who is with you. Then God includes a promise that WHEN you bring them out, YOU WILL WORSHIP here on this mountain.

- Why might God have provided such a promise of deliverance and continual presence to Moses?
- What makes the revelation that God is always here, always present hard for people to comprehend?

Because of the time in which we live, we see the fulfillment of God's promise through the life of Jesus. Pastor Jeremiah referenced John 8:52-58. Have the group read through this passage together.

When asked by the Pharisees what authority he has, Jesus responds I AM. Jesus assumes this divine name for himself, a sign that the power of God was truly his.

Jesus Christ assumed the divine name for himself. This is a sign that this power of God was truly his. He healed the lame, made the blind to see, defeated the grave.

Do you believe that Jesus Christ has that power?

- His power can free you from addiction, oppression, illness. Where is your trust & faith?
- His strength and power are with you. We can trust. We must think bigger. HE HAS THAT POWER!

This call is even bigger than individual application. This is application for the greater church body. We can trust that God has the power to rescue people from slavery, to provide for the orphan, to bring salvation to the home of every person who has breath.

Application: The promises of God, his presence, his power can provide great hope and great challenge.

- Today, we began by talking about seasons of life where we are overconfident and seasons when we are stuck. What season of life do you find yourself? How specifically should we be praying for your spiritual growth?
- The truth that Jesus has the power to overcome every addiction, oppression and illness can be hard to trust in. What big area would you like to see our class commit to pray for Jesus to overcome?

When you question, return to this promise and look to Jesus Christ, the sign of His strength.