

Introduction:

- I remember watching an episode of "I Dream of Jeannie" when I was a child. I remember one episode distinctly. Tony's friend Roger wanted Jeannie to do her genie magic and produce a copy of a current newspaper. Aiming to please she said she would, but she needed to know the day's date. Roger told her the date and with that she blinked her eyes and a paper magically appeared. Roger turned to the sports page and started reading. Soon, he realized he had given Jeannie tomorrow's date and what he was looking at were the results of that evening's races at the dog track before they had even been run. Roger quickly made his way to the track and placed bets on dogs he knew were going to win. A big pay out was guaranteed! APPLICATION: Of course, the TV show was fictitious, but the principle holds true in real life. When we know something in advance, we act with greater assurance and confidence.
- If there is one thing we can say about Jesus, it is that He knew who He was and whose He was.
- Therein is found confidence! Knowing who and whose you are.
 - *"No one can make you feel inferior without your consent."* Attributed to: Eleanor Roosevelt.
 - With what Jesus had to face in this life He had to have confidence.
 - Confidence is an emotion that is expressed in knowing who you are.

I. Jesus knew who He was! And whose He was.

- A. The Father told Him who He was and whose He was! Fathers have the power/authority to make such declarations! These declarations are powerful to the one receiving them.
1. Before Jesus faced Satan in the wilderness, listen to what the Father spoke to Jesus at His baptism.
 - a) *"and behold, a voice from heaven said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.'"* (Matthew 3:17, ESV) Let's break this down.
 - (1) My beloved Son!!! Identity! It is who you belong too! So many believers struggle over who they belong to. Whose son are you? The Father made sure Jesus didn't struggle with that. My Son - possessive/connected. Beloved....my unconditionally loved Son!
 - (2) I am so pleased with Him!!! God takes pleasure in the Son of His love!
 2. Before Jesus goes to the cross, listen to what the Father speaks to Him at the transfiguration. The cross will be the hardest thing Jesus ever faces, but the Father is so pleased with Him.
 - a) *"He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.'"* (Matthew 17:5, ESV)
 - (1) Cloud, not just any cloud - it is a glory cloud...a voice, God's voice, comes out of the cloud.
 - (2) "My beloved Son" - three powerful words.

- (3) "with whom I am well pleased."
- b) Luke adds Chosen One: *"And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!'"* (Luke 9:35, ESV)
- (1) My Chosen One - My selected One! I.e. First and only one picked for the team!
- B. Confidence comes in knowing who you are.
1. The Father's words to the Son gave Him His identity and caused His Son's confidence to soar! He endure the cross scorning its shame!
 2. At least eighteen different times, Jesus said the words, "I AM!"
 - a) "I Am" is an announcement of identity.
 - b) I am the light of the world. *"Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'"* (John 8:12, ESV)
 - c) I am the Bread of life, Living Water, the Open Door, the Way, the Truth, the Life, the Resurrection and life, etc. Jesus knew who He was! And because He knew who He was, He was never under any pressure to perform!
 - d) *"Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.'"* (John 8:58, ESV) That is so powerful! He was revealing His identity to those who would not receive/believe Him. Jesus wanted them to believe.

II. The Importance Of Knowing Who You Are

- A. Effects of lack of identity.
1. If you do not know who you are you will be easily manipulated.
 - a) This never happened to Jesus.
 - b) But we see it happen to Peter in his denial of Jesus three different times.
 2. When other people shape/define you, it causes stress because you are now someone or something you were never meant to be.
 3. You will never be secure, as a person, until you know your identity.
 4. If we do not know who we are, we will be ruled by our feelings, fears, and doubts.
- B. The only way you can counteract external pressures is to have an internal knowing, a sense of satisfaction about who you are and whose you are.
1. You discover who you are by knowing whose you are.
 2. You discover whose you are by knowing intimately the One who chose you and died for you!
- C. What can I say, that God has already said, to give me identity?
1. *"Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits."* (Proverbs 18:21, ESV)

III. Identified Through The Word

- A. I am born again! *"...you must be born again!"* John 3:7 If I am born again, and I am,

then I have a new Father!

1. I am a child of God! *"But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,"* (John 1:12, ESV) If I am a child of God, then God is my Father!
 2. I look like my Father! *"To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."* (2 Thessalonians 2:14, ESV)
 3. I am adopted! *"he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,"* (Ephesians 1:5, ESV)
- B. I have the nature of God. *"by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature,"* (2 Peter 1:4, ESV)
1. Bill Vanderbush *"I was found in God long before I was lost in Adam."* Ephesians 1:4 *"He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world."* *"Jesus is the point of extinction for Adam's fallen race."* Mike Petzer, Ibid.
 2. *"Every temptation will try to bring into question our revealed identity, as spoken from heaven, since it is this identity that is at the very heart of our victory and our standing with God."* Mike Petzer, Gospel Identity, p28.
 - a) *le. Numbers 13:33 - we became grasshoppers in their eyes.*
 - b) *Our job is to take captive every thought that sets itself up against the Word of God. (2 Corinthians 10:5.*
- C. I am righteous! *"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."* (2 Corinthians 5:21, ESV)
1. I am light! *"for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light"* (Ephesians 5:8, ESV) *"For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness."* (1 Thessalonians 5:5, ESV)
 2. I am redeemed! *"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"—"* (Galatians 3:13, ESV)
 3. I am ransomed by His blood! Revelation 5:9. Ephesians 1:7 Redemption through His blood.
 - a) Remember, the priest examined the sacrifice not the person who brought it!
 4. I am blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus. Ephesians 1:3
 - a) He chose me (Ephesians 1:4)
 - b) He predestined me (Ephesians 1:5)

Conclusion:

- Again, this is not an exhaustive sermon. But, it serves to point you in the right direction of knowing who you are in Christ.