



## “CONSCIOUS AND INTENTIONAL MINISTRY: DOING WHO I AM”

Also I heard the voice of the Lord saying: “Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.” Isaiah 6:8

THE PASTOR’S PEN

May 30, 2021

## WHO I AM – WHY I AM – WHAT I DO - - Part 13

*If you know who you are, you do not need permission to do what you do*

**Dr. Anthony Mensah**

I pray that you are encouraged as you are receiving revelation from God regarding who you are. As much as it is important to know who you are, it is of equal importance to know who you are not. There is a boldness and confidence that radiates from us when we are able to stand in the midst of opposition and rejection and say, “I am doing this because this is who I am.”

There is also a boldness and confidence that radiates from us when we are able to stand in the midst of opposition and rejection and say, “I will not do this because this is not who I am.”

Using Jesus again as an example, Jesus was not only very clear who He was, Jesus was also very clear who He was not. Therefore, Jesus did not permit others to force Him into roles, positions and/or actions that were outside of who He was.

In John 6:15, the crowd wanted to take Jesus by force and make Him a king over them.

*<sup>15</sup> Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force **to make Him king**, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone. **John 6:15***

Jesus, instead, departed to the mountain by Himself. Why did Jesus not concede to the desires of the crowd? Wouldn't that have been a good thing? Couldn't there have been positive outcomes that would have been beneficial to Jesus' ministry? In declaring Jesus as their king, they would also be declaring their allegiance to Jesus as their king. Wasn't that the goal – to receive Jesus as their king?

Apparently not for Jesus because Jesus did not receive their elevation of Him as their king. Jesus did not do what He did not do because Jesus knew that is not who He was. First, it was never intended for Jesus to be their physical king. Yes, the goal was for them to bow before Jesus as their King of kings and Lord of lords, however, as their spiritual king. Second, this was not the timing that the father had determined for Jesus to be their king. Jesus would become their king after His death, burial and resurrection – in God's timing. Third, Jesus did not permit them to tell Him who He was and what He was to do. I believe Jesus did not permit them to tell Him who He was for one simple reason – He already was who they were desiring Him to be. Think about it, how were they going to make Jesus king when He was already the King of kings and Lord of lords.

Likewise for us, my prayer is that each one of us are encouraged to possess and live out the boldness and confidence to be able to stand in the midst of opposition and rejection and say, “I will not do this because this is not who I am.” Take the morality of it off of the table– that is, “I will not do this because it is adultery, infidelity, white lies, taking versus stealing, etc.” Take the legality of it off of the table – that is, “I will not do this because it involves drugs, stealing, killing, etc.” The goal is to get to the place where “I will not do this, even if it is no longer considered immoral, and although it is no longer considered illegal, because this is not who I am.”

## WORK FOR THE WEEK

### MAY MEMORY VERSE

<sup>38</sup> Now the just shall live by faith; But if *anyone* draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.”

Hebrews 10:38

### MAY MEDITATION QUOTE

“From Moses to Jesus, the Bible tells us that those who fought for justice—those who spoke truth to power, those who refused to accept that injustice and inequality had to exist and that there was no better way—always found themselves hated, hounded, and heaped upon with false accusations simply because they believed in the necessity of speaking and working for the cause of righteousness and building a more just community. This lack of majority support is why the just must live by faith and must know exactly who we are.”

William J. Barber II, *Forward Together: A Moral Message for the Nation*

### TODAY'S STUDY QUESTIONS AND MEDITATION:

I know that Jesus can do it. Do I really believe that Jesus will do it? \_\_\_\_\_

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What is preventing me from believing that Jesus will do it? \_\_\_\_\_

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### FOR THE YOUTH

Think about a problem that you have right now... \_\_\_\_\_

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Even though it may look like Jesus is not going to do it, I must believe that He will ? \_\_\_\_\_

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