

Friends, don't get me wrong. By no means do I count myself as an expert in all of this, but I've got my eyes on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back.

Philippians 3:13-14 THE MESSAGE BIBLE

First Love Ministries, Inc.

Prayer Study #266

Spirit of Christ

Sunday, February 3, 2013

WHO YOU REALLY ARE

Biblical Examples of People Who Found out Who They Really Were

1. MOSES

- A. Moses murdered a man (Exodus 2:12: *And he [Moses] looked this way and that way, and when he saw that there was no man, he slew the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.*)
- B. God chose Moses as the man to tell Pharaoh: *Let My People Go!* He wrote the first five books of the Bible. He was called by God as His friend, and he is the only person in scripture, that I can find, who was personally buried by God. He achieved possibly the greatest intimacy between God and man of any man who ever lived. Numbers 12:3 tell us, "*Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men who were upon the face of the earth.*" Psalm 37:11 and Jesus' own words in Matthew 5:5 tell us that "*the meek shall inherit the earth.*" His name can mean *drawn out of water*, but it also means *a son*, and he was a very special son to God the Father.
He is listed, along with his parents, in the Hebrews 11 Biblical Hall of Fame of Faith. The writer of Hebrews notes that *by faith, Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season* (Hebrews 11:24-25).

2. GIDEON

- A. Gideon saw himself as the least in his father's house (Judges 6:15). He was cowardly, fearful, doubting, and complaining (Judges 6:11-13). His own father was a worshiper of Baal.
- B. God saw Gideon as a Mighty Warrior who would lead a Remnant Company of 300 of God's people and would destroy a very great army of Midianites. He is also listed in Hebrews 11 in

the Biblical Hall of Fame of Faith. His very name means *Mighty Warrior*

3. DAVID

A. Most Christians, even those who rarely read the Bible, know the story of David and Bathsheba in which David commits both adultery and murder, sins that caused David bitter anguish of heart and a deep cry for pardon and restoration.

B. Yet the Lord calls David "*a man after His own heart*" from whose lineage Jesus would be born (Acts 13:22-23: *And when He had removed him [Saul], He raised up unto them David to be their king, to whom also He gave testimony, and said, I have found David, the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, who shall fulfill all My will. Of this man's seed hath God, according to His promise, raised up unto Israel a Savior, Jesus...*) David's name means *beloved*.

4. JOSIAH

A. The story of Josiah is found in 1st Kings 13 and 2nd Chronicles 34. Josiah came from a terrible background. His grandfather, Manasseh, was one of the most wicked kings Judah ever had. He tried to destroy the Word of God and had every copy that could be found thrown into the fire, because the Word spoke to plainly against his sins. His father, Amon, was also evil and was so hated that his own servants killed him after he was king for only two years, and then the powers that be killed those servants. This is the kind of home life that Josiah came from. Furthermore, he was thrust into the kingship, as a fatherless child, when he was only 8 years old.

5. At age 16 Josiah turned from the ways of his father and grandfather and sought the Lord. At age 20 he purged Judah and Jerusalem of all idolatry. At age 26 he began to rebuild the temple and came across a buried and forgotten copy of the Word of God. He was profoundly affected by the Word and corrected his own bad habits and the corruption of Judah. He died at the age of 39. We know he was well-loved by the people because of their deep and long-continued mourning after his death. J.G. Greenhough says of Israel's later kings, "*Four-fifths of them were equally deficient in brains and morals, a combination of wickedness and folly, with nothing of the king about them but the name. But here and there you come upon a man amidst all these royal puppets. It is like finding a garden in a Sahara, or a jewel in a heap of sham trinkets and dirty stage finery.*

Josiah breaks a long, monotonous series of absolutely worthless monarchs. Before and behind him are moral waste and darkness. He stands out as a figure worth looking at and loving...Josiah's good reign was like a burst of brilliant sunset, before the final darkness comes on." Josiah's name means The Fire of the Lord.

5. MARY MAGDALENE

- A. Luke tells us in Luke 8:2 that Mary Magdalene had seven demons cast out of her by Jesus. She came from a town with a bad reputation and one that was known for its prostitutes. However, there is no scriptural evidence that Mary Magdalene was a prostitute. We just do know that she had seven demons.
- B. Mary Magdalene was the first person to witness the Resurrection and talk with our resurrected Lord. She was also the first commissioned by Jesus to go and announce the greatest good news ever proclaimed, *"Go and tell my brethren and say unto them, I ascend unto My Father and your Father and to My God and to your God"* (John 20:17).

Who You Really Are

1. You are a tabernacle for the Holy Spirit.
2. You are covered with the Blood.
3. You are a Mighty Warrior in the Lord's End Time Army.
4. You are a threat to the Kingdom of Darkness.
5. You are commissioned by the Lord to go for the Lord (Isaiah 6).