

“He Knows You Well”

01-31-16

PBS was on the other night, and as I was getting ready to go to bed, I got engrossed in a program about Henry Ford. I’ve known about Henry all my life growing up in Detroit. I’ve toured his mansion, “Fairlane”, in Dearborn, and spent a great deal of time in the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village.

As a 10 year old, I took the tour of His Rouge plant which showed the making of a car from iron ore coming in by big ship, to a finished car coming off the assembly line ready to sell. Henry Ford was a friend of some of the 20th century giants: Harvey Firestone, Charles Lindbergh, and especially Thomas Edison! Just as an aside, Charles Lindbergh’s mother was my father’s High School chemistry teacher!

I knew all these things, but I didn’t know he was seen as an unfair labor giant, a heavy-handed father, and after some strokes and advanced age, someone stuck in the past. He actually said shortly before his death, the best thing that could happen to the Ford Motor Company was to have it go back and just make one kind of car, just like it used to.

Have you ever had a friend you knew when you were young that turned into an extremely successful person that many people admired and were in awe of? When they mention them and talk about their success, have you ever said, “Well, I knew them when...?”

Open to Jeremiah 1. Jeremiah’s first-person account of God’s calling him as a prophet, echoes the story of Moses’ commission to lead the Israelite slaves from Egypt in Exodus 3. God’s rescue of Moses as an infant eighty years before preceded his commission. God refers here to Jeremiah’s prenatal calling. Like Moses, Jeremiah had many reasons why he wasn’t suited for God’s calling. Verse 6, *“Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth.”*

Many times, we’re just like the two of them and have all kinds of objections to what God has asked to do! We don’t feel prepared! We don’t feel adequate or trained well enough! The biggest reason God’s Mission doesn’t happen is because of us, not God!

But God truly and richly loves us! God knows each of us as His children intimately. In our Old Testament Lesson, it says clearly in verse 5, *“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”* I think the key word in this verse, and in this whole lesson is **Before!** God’s time is before, now, and forever. It doesn’t match our concept of time, it’s eternal! In just this one verse, look at all the things God has done and continues to do for you.

Formed. On this Sunday after the Sanctity of Life Sunday, we see that God put us all together even before we were born. We have been formed by God at the moment of conception. How can the world not see this and only feel it’s not a child until it comes into the world!

Consecrates. When God calls you His own, especially in the waters of Baptism, you’re made someone special and chosen for something particular. You were made to walk humbly in His ways.

Appoints. You're not on earth to just be on earth and do your own thing. God, when He called you His own, has given you very special work. You and I are to be His representatives and ambassadors to a world which is going the wrong way apart from Him!

Knows. Henry Eyring has said, *"Each of you is a unique child of God. God knows you individually. He sends messages of encouragement, correction, and direction fitted to you and to your needs."* When Jesus talked about Himself and made His "I AM" statements, He said in John 10:14-15, *"I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep."* You are His in His sight!

Calls. If it's true that God knows us and that He's made us His own in the womb, the question isn't so much, *"where do I come from"*, but *"where do I belong"*? If it's true that God knows you and needs you, then it's also true, as it was for Jeremiah, that you need to follow God's appointment for you and fulfil your calling!

Oswald Chambers talked about the call in this way, *"God did not direct His call to Isaiah, Isaiah overheard God saying, "Who will go for Us?" The call of God isn't just for a select few but for everyone. Whether you hear God's call or not depends on the condition of your ears, and exactly what you hear depends upon your spiritual attitude."*

Look at 1 Corinthians 1. **You're not Called by God to Do Everything! You're Called by God to Do Something!** Be your best doing what you were made to do. God has called you to reach a target audience, and has a purpose for why He made you and has placed you where you are. Stray too far from these things and the message of God will be lost! Verses 4-8, *"I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

God has a Purpose and Plan for You. Listen to Jeremiah 29:11, *"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."* For many of us, life has become too mundane, too predictable. So we look for new adventures in the experiences of others. We become passive observers rather than active participants of our own great adventure. God can help you with this need.

Look at the verse from Ephesians 2:10 at the bottom of your sermon insert, *"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."*

By yielding to God's Will, telling the world about Jesus Christ, the Savior, and following the promptings and leadings of the Holy Spirit into a life of service and ministry, God, Who Knows You Well, and will help you and will take you to places you've never even imagined!