

AN INVITATION TO A JOURNEY

MATTHEW 3 | ERIC SIMPSON | MARCH 1, 2020

"There is only one problem on which all my existence, my peace, and my happiness depend: to discover myself in discovering God. If I find Him I will find myself and if I find my true self I will find Him." – Thomas Merton (1915-1968)

"How can you draw close to God when you are far from your own self? Grant, Lord, that I may know myself that I may know Thee." – St. Augustine (354-430)

"Nearly all wisdom we possess...consists of two parts: the knowledge of God and of ourselves." – John Calvin (1509-1564)

Matthew 16:25

For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

"The vast majority of us go to our graves without knowing who we are. We unconsciously live someone else's life, or at least some else's expectations of us. This does violence to ourselves, our relationship with God, and ultimately to others." – Pete Scazzero

Step #1:

Your identity is received from beyond you, not created by you.

Matthew 3:13-17 – Jesus got his identity from heaven.

- God knows me.
- God loves me.
- God is for me.
- I am a child of God.

We often try to gain our identity "from earth."

- Performance—I am what I do.
- Possessions—I am what I have.
- Popularity—I am what others say about me.

"In all of creation, identity is a challenge only for humans. A tulip knows exactly what it is.

It is never tempted by false ways of being...So it is with dogs, rocks, trees, stars, amoebas, electrons and all other things. All give glory to God by being exactly what they are...

Humans, however, encounter a more challenging existence. We think. We consider options. We decide. We act. We doubt. Simply being is tremendously difficult to achieve and fully authentic being is extremely rare." – David Benner

John 1:19-23 – John the Baptist

This week...

1. Spend some time reflecting on your personal "*I am not...*" statements.
2. End each day with this thought...
 - God knows me.
 - God loves me.
 - God is for me.
 - I am a child of God.