

# Still Hiding? Our True Identity

Weekly Devotionals: April 15—20

## Monday

We learned in this week's sermon that Jacob had to pretend to be someone he was not to get ahead. Outside of the goat fur, this is an all-to-familiar approach that we see in today's culture: if I wear the right clothes, drive the right car, live in the right neighborhood I will be seen as successful. However, the scriptures show us that our Lord "sees" things differently. Read 1 Samuel 16:7. What does the scripture say about how our Lord views us? Spend time reflecting on how much energy you spend on your outward appearance vs. spiritual growth. Where else could you re-focus that energy in your life?

## Tuesday

In gospel of Matthew, Jesus calls-out religious leaders of the time for putting the burden of judgment on others while they themselves enjoy a blameless life. This type of false reality lifted those leaders up in status and put those around them down. Read Matthew 23:1-12. Jesus is calling us to live a life of humility and not concern ourselves with creating lofty images. Spend time in prayer today asking for God to guide you in letting go of lofty images we try to create for ourselves and instead seek to be an example of humility.

## Wednesday

Harry Houdini was a famous magician in the early 1900s. One of his most well know tricks was being able to make an elephant disappear in the middle of a theater filled with people. Do you know how he did that? Misdirection. The elephant did not disappear, but the audience's attention was diverted and it appeared the elephant had vanished.

As you reflect on your identity this week, are there "elephants" that you try to make disappear by misdirecting people's attention to other aspects of your life? Read Hebrews 4:13. No part of your life is hidden from God. Although you can fool those around you into believing you have a flawless identity, God knows all. During your prayer time today, seek strength and courage to no longer cover-up, but remove an "elephant" from your life.

## Thursday

We are not perfect. Although at times we are tempted to give an image that we have everything under control and are without flaw...we are not perfect. However, do not be discouraged. The book of James encourages us to embrace (not hide) troubles in our lives as a way to grow our endurance and faith. In fact, it is only through that growth do we become complete. Read James 1:3-4 and pray for the strength of endurance and that our faith continue to grow.

## Friday

Galatians 5:1 states "It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery." As a celebration at the end of the week, spend time in prayer thanking God that we do not have to hide ourselves; He has set us free to be ourselves.

## Saturday

As the last devotional of the week, read and reflect on 2 Corinthians 1:21-22. You are defined by God, not by what you think of yourself, what others think of you, your job, your wealth, your relationships, etc. Take comfort, you are identified as God's own!