WHO YOU ARE & YOUR LIFE-MESSAGE

May 24, 2020 2 Corinthians 2:12–3:6 by Bob Branch Real Faith in Raw Times, part 4

BIG IDEA: Your truest identity and life-message comes from standing in God's presence, and then works outward to others.

¹⁴ But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives	ir i
Christ's triumphal procession	

1

"Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." **Matthew 20:26-28**

...and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him every-where. ¹⁵ For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. ¹⁶ To the one we are an aroma that brings death; to the other, an aroma that brings life.

2 ______

And who is equal to such a task? ¹⁷ Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, as those sent from God.

We take nothing. Only give.

3 ______

^{3:1} Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, like some people, letters of recommendation to you or from you? ² You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone. ³ You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

⁴ Such confidence we have through Christ before God. ⁵ Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. ⁶ He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. 2 Corinthians 2:12-3:6 Your truest identity and life-message comes from standing in God's presence, and then works outward to others. 1. See yourself living-standing-speaking 2. As you settle there, he'll shape your Who are you, and what has God put inside you? What life-message is brewing in there? 3. Take that/be that life-message _ without shame, fear or apology.

You just have to be who God says you are.