

I Called You

Wherever I go there I am, I know it is poor grammar

Wherever you go you take your stuff with you-- so you need to deal w  
your stuff

You can't hide it for long

You can't stuff it forever

You can 't outrun it bc it will eventually catch up w you

If you don't deal w it it will eventually take you down

Wherever I go there I am

you need to know this bc before you can be your brother's keeper you  
have to deal w your stuff (experience healing) or you will pass on  
your stuff.

Hurting people hurt people

You might be thinking I don't have stuff

Oh ya, You got stuff baby

Stuff = the pain of life, unresolved issues from the past, things  
forced on you by others, choices you regret, people who've hurt you,  
tragic events in our lives.

You got stuff, I got stuff, all God's children got stuff

We like to cope w our stuff by living in denial so I thought I might  
need to illustrate this

Have your parents divorced? Or have you? It's painful stuff

Have you experienced loss - death of a parent, sibling, friend

Painful break-up of a dating relationship where you thought you'd  
found Mr. Right?

Sexually active before or outside of marriage

Have you had a miscarriage?

Have you had an abortion?  
Did you grow up in a family where there was substance abuse!  
Physical abuse?  
Sexual abuse?  
Victim of a crime?  
Do you carry secret sins? Committed a crime?  
Are you or have you been in pornography?  
Anyone here an orphan? Adopted? Foster home?  
Do you have anxiety attacks? Phobia? Insomnia?  
Eating disorder, anorexia or bulimia?  
Drug addiction or substance abuse?  
Rage?  
Bankruptcy?  
How about some of the addictions America approves?  
Performance addiction? Driven to succeed  
Workaholic? Need to be needed?  
Perfectionism?

How many of you could identify w one or more of these things I just mentioned?

Everybody's got something BIG going on  
That's our reality isn't it? The long term effect of the "bent to sin." bloodstained planet  
I have all these things in my church. I've had several of these things in my life.  
You cant fool an addict  
If you are going to be you brother's keeper you've got to deal w your stuff

I got stuff, you got stuff, all God's people got stuff  
Because wherever I go, there I am

The story of Moses  
Exodus 2:14-25

Holy discontent, strong sense of justice

When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled

from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian, where he sat down by a well.

Now a priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came to draw water and fill the troughs to water their father's flock. Some shepherds came along and drove them away, but Moses got up and came to their rescue and watered their flock.

When the girls returned to Reuel their father, he asked them, "Why have you returned so early today?" They answered, "An Egyptian rescued us from the shepherds. He even drew water for us and watered the flock."

"And where is he?" he asked his daughters. "Why did you leave him? Invite him to have something to eat." Moses agreed to stay with the man, who gave his daughter Zipporah to Moses in marriage. Zipporah gave birth to a son, and Moses named him Gershom, saying, "I have become an alien in a foreign land."

-Exodus 2:15-21 niv

Do you think Moses had stuff? He was a great man of God and he had stuff.

Why do you think he stuttered?

He was an orphan  
Foreigner  
Misfit in Pharaoh's home  
I bet he was picked on and I bet he was in a lot of fights  
My guess was he was abused and felt Powerless  
Really good at self defense, drug of choice was adrenaline, he  
learned to fight  
I bet he was torn between cultures  
Alone/afraid  
Object of ridicule

Gary, you're reading between the lines, yes you are correct.  
I've lived long enough and been through enough pain to know what to look for

Addicts know what to look for, they know the signs

I didn't stutter but I was born w a birth defect, a cleft pallet  
Three operations partially successful  
Teased a lot in grade school and middle school, I fought w words  
I lived w the shame of looking different  
I grew up in Alaska, son of a missionary, a cultural misfit  
Low self esteem and shame which is a toxic combination  
My coping device was to develop the addictions Americans approve  
Perfectionism, addicted to approval, work- aholism  
I had the need to succeed, I was driven to prove myself

The lie I believed was that I wasn't enough

I got stuff, you got stuff, all God's children got stuff  
Coping may drive you forward, it might be fuel for you to break free,  
it will consume you  
Coping and healing are NOTthe same

If you are going to be your brother's keeper you need healing  
Because everywhere I go, there I am

Let me ask you today, What are you doing w your stuff?  
Denial?  
Stuffing?  
Trade one addiction for another?

Illustration of the beach ball

Back to Moses  
No wonder he flew into a rage when he saw a Hebrew man being beaten  
Why do you think he killed him?  
His stuff was showing  
Rage is powerlessness expressed

He intervened the next day too  
He had a holy discontent but it was wrongly motivated  
He didn't know his stuff was showing until someone else spoke it out  
loud  
We don't tend to tell ourselves the truth

We need people who will tell us the truth  
If you are one of those people prepare to be persecuted bc denial is  
strong

We can't do God's work in our own strength while in a broken state  
Pharaoh found out

Moses ran  
Ran from Pharaoh, ran from the pain, ran from God's plan, ran from  
his family, ran from his stuff

Went to the land of Midian which was a long trip across the desert  
Witnesses abuse and again he becomes a rescuer of the underdog,  
Jethro's daughter

He started the cycle all over again  
Foreigner  
Orphaned  
Torn between cultures  
Alone  
Murderer

Sometimes you may be tempted to think, I need a fresh start  
When what you really need is a new life, you need healing and God can  
give it  
But first you have to face your stuff

God's plan for your life will lead you directly to an intersection  
between your stuff and His will to heal you.

Ex 3:1-10 the burning bush

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight-why the bush does not burn up."

When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am." "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."

Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey

The home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them.

So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

God never lost track of Moses  
He didn't forget his plan  
He never stopped loving  
He came to offer him healing

Moses was going to have to go back  
He was going to have to face his stuff

God never wastes a good crisis, He will redeem it and use it to face you w your need for Him. His will will lead you to an intersection between your stuff and His will.

He sees you. He knows you better than you know yourself  
He sees more in you than you see in yourself

I see you, I know you,  
I feel the misdirected passion bc I put it in you  
I know you've messed up but I'm here to forgive and to heal if you  
will come to me  
I call you to do what you can't do without me

You can only heal what you will acknowledge

I'm here to get in your grill today and to get your attention like  
the burning bush  
And to tell you that you are on Holy Ground

Today God says, I see you and I call you to come, stuff and all, and  
stop running  
He wants to heal you and set you free

He sees more in you than you see in yourself

Moses saw himself as a murderer, an alien, a misfit, a has been who  
missed his chance  
God saw him as the one man on earth who would stand up to Pharaoh  
God saw him as the man who would lead Israel out of Egypt and slavery  
God knew Moses would have the faith to split the Red Sea  
God knew Moses was the man who would receive the 10 commandments  
God would let Moses see him, he would talk to him friend to friend

You may be ready to disqualify yourself. God wants you to stop  
running So He can heal you. Moses wanted to keep his problem and keep

coping.  
God wanted to heal him.

Take off your shoes. On holy ground.  
Another reason Moses needed to take off his shoes was so he couldn't  
run  
You don't cross a desert without sandals

Will you stop running ?  
Will you understand this is your moment?  
This is Holy Ground  
Will you take off your shoes today and say

Yes Lord, heal me, yes Lord use me  
Send me to the intersection of my stuff and Your grace

There is a world full of people who have your stuff  
They need to know there is hope.  
They need freedom.  
They need God who can heal them

You are your brother's keeper but whoever you go there you are

Build an altar of shoes today.  
I'm going to stop running  
I'm coming God for healing, quit hiding, quit pretending, quit  
coping, start healing  
Put your shoes in a pile and say yes to God  
Stand in a circle around the pile and pray for the fire of God to  
cleanse us