

FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

PART 2

Text: 1 Corinthians 1:23-31

When I was young sitting in Sunday school and they would teach the Bible stories about the well-known figures in scripture, I would build up an image of the people used by God as almost superhuman. That they were so far removed from someone like me that I had nothing in common with them. We sometimes think that there was something special about these people that God would call them to work through. But when I got older and studied the Bible through a more mature lens, I realized that that notion was completely wrong. God does the opposite of what we would do. **Isaiah 55:8** For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

These verses show us that God bypasses the people that we think are deserving, worthy, and capable and calls the exact opposite kind of people. Not many wise men, not many mighty, not many noble are called...but God has chosen the foolish things, the weak things, the insignificant things, and the despised things of this world so that he can shake up and leave speechless the wise, the mighty, and the noble of this world! The text leaves no doubt in our minds why God has done it this way...for his glory! God is chiefly concerned about his glory meaning that his attributes and awesomeness is put on display, and that he gets the honor and praise for all that is done. **1 Corinthians 1:29** That no flesh should glory in his presence. God chooses the opposite of what the world would choose so that he can work through the undesirable to accomplish his will, for the sole reason that what he has chosen will not take the credit from God.

Part of glorifying God on the earth is doing his will. Christ said, “I have glorified thee on the earth, I have finished the work thou hast given me to do.” When we start talking about doing the will of God, some people tense up and get anxious because they automatically count themselves unable or unworthy. I have repeatedly said to other people “I wouldn’t have called me to preach” or “I wouldn’t have put myself into the position of a pastor”. I can give you ten good reasons why in my mind, God would have been better off calling someone else to do the things he has called me to do. My calling began when the Lord moved on me to start teaching adult Sunday school when I was 22 years old and most of the people in my class had been saved longer than I had been alive. I was scared to death. It forced me to read my Bible because up until that time, I never did. When I started teaching, I found that God had given me the ability to see things in scripture like a preacher does. I started having

dreams about preaching and I stood behind this pulpit for the first time to preach when I was 24. The call to preach really unnerved me because I immediately started comparing myself with other people and I had the feeling that I could never measure up. I was afraid because of how I thought that people would view me or treat me different if they knew that I was a preacher, so for a while I tried not to do it and I was going to be “a regular person”. But when there is a call on your life and you try not to do it, your life comes up as empty as Peter’s net when he fished all night and caught nothing. When I finally submitted to God and said yes to his will, I have found that I would rather preach when God has given me a message, than eat a steak when I’m hungry. Everyone that was called in scripture went through the same things that we do.

- **Moses** – gave God multiple reasons why he couldn’t go before Pharaoh to the point it aroused God’s anger. Who was he? He wasn’t eloquent. The people would never believe that God had sent him. Pharaoh wouldn’t listen to him.
- **Gideon** – was terrified by God’s calling for him to fight the Midianites. The Lord told him to start by throwing down his father’s altar to Baal and cut down his grove. He was so afraid he did it at night. He asked God to confirm his call with a fleece, twice.
- **Jonah** – wasn’t afraid to do God’s will but was so angered by what God had called him to do that he tried to abort it. We find out at the end of the story when Nineveh repented, and God spared them that that was exactly what Jonah didn’t want to happen. Jonah for a time thought about death over doing the will of God.
- **Jeremiah** – told God he was too young to be a prophet.

Through the entire Bible, God calls and uses people that are flawed just like us. People who have failed and people who were afraid. Moses had such a temper that it was what led to him being held out of the promised land. Elijah dealt with depression to the point of suicide. Aaron the first high priest Israel ever had, crumbled under the pressure of the people and made a golden calf. Samson was spiritually strong at times and carnally weak at others. Simon Peter had glaring flaws and failed the Lord in a way that he thought he could never come back from. Mary and Joseph were common, insignificant, and poor people, yet they were chosen by God for the care of Jesus Christ as a child. God has used a stick, a donkey, a rooster, a shrub bush, a fish, a lad and many like things to accomplish his will. Here’s why, so that there is no doubt in our minds who gets the glory for all these things. We give the glory to God for giving strength to the weak, power to the powerless, courage to the fainthearted, encouragement to the despondent, and overcoming the kingdom of darkness with the foolish things of this world.

When God reveals his will to you:

- **It will be overwhelming** – the first thing that you will think is “There’s no way I can do that” **Exodus 3:11** And Moses said unto God, Who *am* I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?
- **It will be inconvenient** – the will of God always requires a sacrifice of your time among other things to get it done. Philip was led by God to go 60-64 miles into the desert to preach to the Ethiopian Eunuch.

Here is why you can do it: Genesis 28:15 And, behold, I *am* with thee, and will keep thee in all *places* whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done *that* which I have spoken to thee of. **Exodus 3:12** And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this *shall be* a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain. **Jeremiah 1:8** Be not afraid of their faces: for I *am* with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD. **Matthew 28:18-20** And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen. **HE HAS ALL POWER AND HE’S GOING TO BE WITH YOU**

Here is what you get out of it:

- **You get to experience God** – people that never seek out or submit to the will of God, only get to experience God on basic levels. The Israelites that came out of Egypt but refused to go into Canaan knew God in an elementary way. They ate the manna and drank from the rock, but they never slew giants, never lived in houses that they didn’t build or eat of vineyards they didn’t plant. They settled for much less than God wanted to give them because the will of God scared them.
- **You get to know God in a more intimate way** – When you submit to obey God, it causes you to cling to him. You pray more often and more fervently. You read the Bible more for strength. You exercise more faith because the will of God often leads you to the impossible. **Psalms 103:7** He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel.
- **You get eternal rewards for work done in time - Matthew 19:27-29** Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.