

GOD IS LOOKING FOR A FEW 'GOOD' MEN (& WOMEN)

TEXT: **1 Cor.6:9-11** *Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*

THESIS: To show that the Lord accepts & uses all types of sinners...after salvation & sanctification.

INTRO.: A. The song says the Lord is "looking for a few good men." The Bible doesn't teach that unless we are speaking of men (& women) after salvation & sanctification. Jesus said:

Lk.5:32 **I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.**

B. Not only is He not looking for "the righteous" or the "good" - but He is not looking for the good looking...the intelligent...the rich...the bubbly...the charismatic...the enthusiastic...the clever...or the sinless! He is looking for sinners!!! Ordinary, everyday, garden variety sinners!! **"GOD IS LOOKING FOR A FEW...MEN (& WOMEN)"** who are simply willing to admit they aren't much & haven't much to offer Him, but are willing to repent of their sin and allow Him to save them & use them.

ILLUS.: Sometimes we look at those the Lord uses & think: "I could never be like that!" But we are looking at the finished product (or near-finished), not the raw material. Our text deals with the raw material.

I. GOD LOOKS FOR & USES THE UNQUALIFIED:

A. A Barren Woman:

1. When the Lord was looking to produce a great man of God, we would have expected that He would have chosen a mother w/experience in raising children.
2. In the case of Abraham (the father of the nation of Israel) and Samuel (the great prophet & priest of Israel), He chose women who were considered cursed, because of their barren wombs!

B. A Hated Samaritan Woman:

1. When the Lord was looking to produce one of the outstanding soul-winners of the N.T., we would have expected Him to choose one of the Apostles wives, or some outstanding preacher.
2. But instead He chose the promiscuous, outcast, half-breed woman who professed to have 5 husbands...& "(the men) went out of the city and came unto (Jesus)." **Jn.4:30**

C. An Adulteress:

1. When the Lord was looking for an example of a "virtuous woman" whose "price was far above rubies" we would have expected Him to use any number of O.T. women who were faithful to their husbands, stayed clean & pure, etc. (like Hannah, Ruth, Naomi).
2. But instead He chose Bathsheba, who committed adultery with David, to be the example! (King Lemuel is probably another name or title for King Solomon) **Proverbs 31**

D. A Poor Widow:

1. When God was looking for an example of sacrificial giving, we would have expected Him to choose some wealthy or famous person.
2. But instead He chose a poor widow whose name is not even mentioned in Scripture, who dropped in two almost worthless coins into the treasury of the Temple.

E. A Harlot:

1. When the Lord was looking for someone to honor His blessed Son & tenderly express genuine love and affection for Him, we would have assumed that He would have chosen Mary or Martha.
2. Instead He chose a harlot to perform upon Him one of the most tender acts of His life.

Lk.7:37-38 **And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, 38 And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment.**

E. Three Murderers:

1. When God wanted major portions of the Bible written we would have thought He would have chosen one of the great scribes, High Priests or Prophets.
2. But instead He chose 3 murderers to pen more Scripture.

NOTE: *fornicators...idolaters...adulterers...effeminate...abusers...thieves...covetous...drunkards...revilers...extortioners..* He not only looks for them - He seeks them out, saves them & cleans them up (sanctifies them), so He can use them! I guess He might be able to use YOU & ME!

II. GOD LOOKS FOR & USES THE UNLIKELY:

1 Cor.1:26-29 *For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: 27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; 28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: 29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.*

A. A Poor Widow in A Famine:

1. When God was looking for someone to feed His mighty prophet Elijah, He could have found some wealthy, attractive woman to do so, no doubt.
2. Be He chose the least impressive, the least able, but the most yielded woman in the land.

ILLUS.: When the Lord wanted to feed Elijah while He was hiding out from the wicked King Ahab & His hussy wife, Jezebel, the Bible says God said to him: "***I have commanded the ravens to feed thee...***" (& they did! Animals are always more yielded to their Creator than man) Later God commanded a poor widow, who with her son, were about to starve to death, to feed the prophet. God told Elijah: "***behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee...***"

She could have rebelled & reasoned "It's not fair my son & I are starving to death, & this prophet wants me to feed him! Doesn't God or His prophet care about me & my son?" She probably reasoned: "This is impossible." (Someone has said "An impossibility is simply a platform from which God can work a miracle." When our resources are dried up...they God can show His power!! "***I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.***")

The students in Bible College everyone expected to be "the most likely to succeed" are not even in the ministry today. God uses "the most unlikely to succeed" to bestow His power & blessings upon!

III. GOD LOOKS FOR & USES THE UNPREPARED:

A. He Took 40 Years To 'Debrief' Moses:

1. Moses was super "prepared" by the world's standards; educated in the palace in Egypt!
2. God tucked him away in the desert for 40 years, to "uneducate" Moses & humble him & teach him to live by faith.

B. He Took 3 Years To 'Debrief' Paul:

1. Paul was a thoroughly educated, religious Jew, a "Pharisee of the Pharisees."
2. God tucked him away in the Arabian desert for 3 years to teach him humility, trust & to indoctrinate him in the Scriptures as they were meant to be understood.

Gal.1:15-19 *But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, 16 To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood: 17 Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus. 18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days. 19 But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother.*

IV. GOD NEVER LOOKS FOR NOR USES THE UNREPENTANT:

CONCL.: The prerequisite to be chosen & used by God is NOT to submit a resume of all your qualifications, abilities & talents, but to simply admit you have little or nothing to offer the Lord, admit you are a sinner in need of cleansing & then simply surrendering to Him for whatever He wishes to use you for.