

So, You Think You Are Unfit To Serve God?

By Paul R. Blake

David's armor didn't fit. John Mark was rejected by Paul. Timothy had a tender stomach. Hosea's wife was a prostitute. Amos' only training was in agriculture. David had an affair. Solomon was rich. Jesus was poor. Abraham was too old. David was too young. Peter was afraid of dying. Lazarus was dead. John was self-righteous. Naomi was a widow. Paul was a murderer. So was Moses. Gideon was afraid. Jonah ran from God. Miriam was a gossip. Thomas doubted. Jeremiah was depressed. Elijah was burned out and became a hermit. John the Baptist didn't understand proper manners in court. Martha was a worrier. Samson had problems with his wife. Noah got drunk. Did I mention that Moses had a short fuse? So did Peter.

So, they all went home thinking themselves excused from service to God because of their weaknesses, right? Wrong! They all realized that their problems and past sins did not make them unfit for the Lord's use. They repented of their sins, worked to overcome their hindrances, and served the Lord to the limit of their abilities. And so can you and I.

Looking For a Preacher

A congregation was looking for a preacher to replace the one who left. They "tried out" a number of men of the word, but found no one suitable for the work there. One of the men made the following announcement:

"Brethren, we do not have a happy report to give. We have not been able to find a suitable candidate for this church, and we have not one promising prospect. We do appreciate all the suggestions from the members, and we've followed up each one with interviews and calling three references. The following is our confidential report on the present candidates:

Adam: Good man, but has problems with his wife. Also one reference told how that Adam and his wife used to walk naked in the woods.

Noah: Worked with former church for 120 years with not a single convert. Prone to unrealistic building projects.

Abraham: Though the references report wife-swapping, the facts seem to show that he never slept with another man's wife. However, did offer to share his wife with other men.

Joseph: A big thinker, but a braggart; believes in dream interpreting. Was seen running from his employer's bedroom. Has a prison record.

Moses: A modest and meek man, but a poor communicator, even stuttering at times. Occasionally loses his temper by acting rashly. Some say he left his former position over a murder charge.

David: The most promising leader of all, until it was discovered that he had an affair and was involved in a cover-up scandal.

Solomon: A great preacher, but the parsonage will not hold all of those women.

Elijah: Prone to depression; has fallen under pressure.

Hosea: A tender, loving preacher, but his wife has an intolerable occupation.

Jeremiah: Emotionally unstable, alarmist, negative, always grieving over something; reported to have taken a long trip to bury his clothes on the banks of a foreign river.

Isaiah: On the fringe. Claims to have seen angels. Has trouble with his language.

Jonah: Refused God's call into the ministry until forced to obey. Tells big fish stories.

Amos: Too backward and unpolished. With training at a Bible college, he might show some promise, but has a hang-up against wealthy people. Might fit in a poorer church.

Melchizedek: Great credentials. However, no information on his resume about former work records, no place or date of birth, and every line blank about parents and schooling.

John: Claims to be a preacher, but doesn't dress like one. Has slept outdoors form months on end, and has an exotic health food diet.

Peter: Too blue collar. Has a temper, even has been known to curse and swear. Had a big run-in with a big name preacher at Antioch. An aggressive, loose cannon.

Paul: Powerful CEO-type leader and fascinating author. However, has a speaking impediment, is short on tact, is unforgiving with young ministers, and has been known to preach all night.

James and John: Package deal preachers appeared good at first, but discovered an ego problem regarding other fellow ministers and seating arrangements. Threatened an entire town after being insulted. Also known to discourage other workers who didn't agree with them.

Timothy: Too young.

Methuselah: Too old; way too old.

Ice Cream is Good for the Soul

Last week I took my children to a restaurant. My six-year-old son asked if he could say grace. As we bowed our heads he said, "God is good. God is great. Thank you for the food, and I would even thank you more if Mom gets us ice cream for dessert. And Liberty and justice for all! Amen!"

Along with the laughter from the other customers nearby, I heard a woman remark, "That's what's wrong with this country. Kids today don't even know how to pray. Asking God for ice-cream! Why, I never!"

Hearing this, my son burst into tears and asked me, "Did I do it wrong? Is God mad at me?" As I held him and assured him that he had done a terrific job and God was certainly not mad at him, an elderly gentleman approached the table He winked at my son and said, "I happen to know that God thought that was a great prayer."

"Really?" my son asked.

"Cross my heart," the man replied. Then in theatrical whisper he added (indicating the woman whose remark had started this whole thing), "Too bad she never asks God for ice cream. A little ice cream is good for the soul sometimes."

Naturally, I bought my kids ice cream at the end of the meal. My son stared at his for a moment and then did something I will remember the rest of my life. He picked up his sundae and without a word walked over and placed it in front of the woman. With a big smile he told her, "Here, this is for you. Ice cream is good for the soul sometimes, and my soul is good already." (From Harold Reynold's Wife)

IF

"Fret not thyself because of evil-doers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity" (Psalm 37:1).

--If someone levels a criticism against you it may be evidence you have done something worthwhile.

--If someone opposes you, consider his objections; His opposition may be justified.

--If someone fails to speak to you, it could have been unintentional -- maybe he didn't see you.

--If someone has defrauded you, remember that there are more than two hundred sixty million people in America who have never done you a wrong.

--If the burdens of the day seem unusually heavy, go to the Father in heaven; He can lighten your load.

--If you tried to do something worthwhile and failed, try again tomorrow: Maybe you can succeed. (By Jesse Kelly)

"We tend to meet any new situation by reorganizing and a wonderful method it can be for creating an illusion of progress while producing confusion, inefficiency and demoralization. (Petronious Arbiter, 100 BC)

F. E. A. R.
Forget Everything And Run;
Or,
Face Everything And Rise.
You decide.