

Reluctant Servants of the Lord

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. Matt. 21:28-31 - The reluctant son eventually did the will of his father
- B. Acts 15:36-39; 13:13; 2Tim. 4:11 - John Mark would not go to the work, but later he excelled in the work
- C. We speak often and fondly of the eagerness of many of the servants and messengers of the Lord, but were all of God's servants eager to obey?

I. RELUCTANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY WRONG

- A. There will always be a need for leaders to have a God-honoring reluctance. What is a reluctance that honors God?
 - 1. Realizes that the task before us is too big for a man unaided by God
 - 2. Acknowledges by faith that God has the power to accomplish His will through any instrument, regardless of how flawed it may appear to us
 - 3. A spiritually healthy, reluctant leader is one who repents of and confesses his own sins
 - 4. He conscientiously works to be free from selfish motives and attempts to build up his own name
 - 5. It is the kind of reluctance that goes to the work, but also makes God great and the servant small
- B. Reluctant leaders
 - 1. Moses argued on the basis of speech - Ex. 4:1, 10
 - a. God's answer - Ex. 4:11-12
 - 2. Gideon argued on the basis of Inadequacy - Judges 6:13-15
 - a. God's answer - Judges 6:16
 - 3. Isaiah argued on the basis of his sinful nature - Isa. 6:1-5
 - a. God's answer - Isa. 6:6-8
 - 4. Jeremiah argued on the basis of youth - Jer. 1:4-6
 - a. God's answer - Jer. 1:7-10
 - 5. Ananias argued on the basis of rumor - Acts 9:13-14
 - a. God's answer - Acts 9:15-16
- C. Reluctance to serve is predicated on self-assessment.
 - 1. Willingness to serve is predicated on God-assessment.

II. OVERCOMING RELUCTANCE WITH A PLAN - Acts 8:26-40

- A. Vs 26 - The desire to go toward... in the direction of work
- B. Vs 26 - The desire to teach in spiritual deserts with no expectation of results
- C. Vs 27 - The plan is put into action - Judges 5:15
- D. Vs 30 - The refusal to waste time after receiving orders.
- E. Vs 30 - The readiness to challenge.
- F. Vs 35 - The start from the point at where people are.
- G. Vs 35 - The one true message - 1Cor. 2:2; Gal. 1:8
- H. Vs 37 - The exposition of the Scriptures for understanding of hearers.
- I. Vs 40 - The proclamation of Christ wherever people are found.