God Can Use You

1 Corinthians 1:27-29

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.

One of the most incredible chapters of Hebrew history begins with the whole Hebrew nation in bondage.

- Out of the despair of slavery they lift their voice to God and he hears their cry.
  - And God, in the fullness of his time, sets out to liberate his people.
- But watch how he does it.
  - He doesn’t send an angelic host.
  - He doesn’t march into Egypt as a conqueror.
  - He doesn’t come in with brute force and set the captives free.
- He chooses one man.
  - A flawed man.
  - An imperfect man.
  - A man who doesn’t believe in himself.
  - A man who doesn’t have any confidence in his own abilities.
- From the backside of the desert he calls a man,
  - who was chosen for this purpose from before his birth.
    - A man who is running from God’s call.
    - A man who is hiding from God’s purpose.
    - A man who, if the truth were told, doesn’t even want to be chosen!
- Moses would just as soon be left alone.
  - He would rather become a footnote in history
    - than to go back to Egypt.
  - He is content to be a has-been.
  - He is content to recognize that his moment has passed.
    - That he blew his chance.
  - He has resigned himself to the fact that he has failed in his life’s biggest purpose.
    - But he has made his peace with that.
    - He is prepared to live his days in obscurity on the backside of the desert.
- But God chooses this man to go set his people free from Egypt.
  - He didn’t even want to be chosen.
  - It doesn’t make any sense at all.
  - His best years have been wasted.
  - His strength has been exhausted.
  - His ego is bruised and battered.
• But God doesn’t see things the way Moses sees them
  o God looks at things differently than we do.

The Way God Sees
• When the people chose a king,
  o they chose Saul,
    ▪ who was a kingly king.
  o He was a real man’s man.
    ▪ He stood head and shoulders above the rest,
      • he was stronger,
      • he was mightier,
      • he was more dashing,
      • he was the kind of king
        o that men would choose.
• But, when God chose a king
  o he chose a shepherd boy.
    ▪ In time David would prove to be a great leader
      • and a fierce warrior
      • but he would never match Saul in stature!
  o That didn’t matter to God.
    ▪ Because what God was looking for in a king
      • was vastly different than what men were looking for.
• When God called Gideon to deliver his people,
  o Gideon gathered an army.
    ▪ But God took one look at Gideon’s group of warriors
      • and said, “I can’t use that.”
  o If I let you go fight the battle with that army,
    ▪ you might think that you, somehow, caused the victory.
  o Let me deal with that.
    ▪ Let me take away your ability.
      • Let me set the stage for the kind of victory where I get
        the credit.
      o Let’s make the odds impossible
        ▪ then let me show you what I can do.

The Cross
• In a manger in Bethlehem,
  o the king of all kings,
    ▪ the Lord of all lord’s
    ▪ became a baby.
• The battle lines were drawn.
  o The war of the ages was coming down
    ▪ to one final cataclysmic battle.
• Hell was prepared to defend its death grip on humanity.
  o The forces of evil were amased
and they were ready for a brutal spiritual battle.

- They had determined to stand against the Ancient of Days
  - and they thought they were prepared
    - to oppose the Lion of the tribe of Judah.
- But when he came,
  - he didn't come as a lion.
    - He came as a lamb!

- He chose weakness over strength.
  - He chose humility over pride.
    - He chose submission over aggression.
- He who holds all power and all authority,
  - he who by his words formed the universe,
  - he who cannot be defeated,
    - chose to come to this world
    - as a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes.
  - He robed himself in humanity.
    - He robed himself in vulnerability.
    - He made himself a little lower than the angels!
- Hell didn't understand.
  - The princes of this world never could grasp it.
    - I've no doubt that the angels in heaven
      - were awestruck as God became a man.
- In case you don’t get it, let me be blunt:
  - God uses weakness.
    - God uses inability.
    - God uses brokenness.
  - The things that we see as liabilities,
    - God sees as advantages.
  - Where we see weakness,
    - God sees strength.
  - Where we see inability,
    - God sees the opportunity
      - for his supreme ability to show through.
  - Where we see brokenness,
    - God sees a vessel worthy of honor!
  - To the carnal mind it doesn’t make sense.
    - To the wise, it is foolishness.
    - To the educated, it is folly.
    - To the accomplished it is failure.
    - But to God, it is the evidence of a vessel that he can use!

- God deliberately chose
  - the things that are foolish in the world
    - to confound the wise.
  - He intentionally chose the base things,
    - the despised things,
the things that are not
to bring to naught the things that are.

- He came in humility,
  - as sheep before its shearers.
    - They mocked him.
    - They beat him.
    - They cursed him.
      - Yet, he opened not his mouth.
      - He lifted not a finger.
- While angels waited for his command,
  - yearning and straining to come to his defense,
    - he hung on the cross,
      - a spectacle of weakness
      - and helplessness.
- But in that moment,
  - out of utter defeat,
    - he won the greatest victory.
  - Out of death, he purchased life.
  - Out of submission he exercised authority.
  - And, as he breathed his last,
    - as his blood flowed down that cross,
      - he purchased salvation for the entire world.
- Paul said in 2 Corinthians 13:4 that he was crucified in weakness.
  - But that weakness became his greatest strength.
    - Death was swallowed by life.
      - Defeat yielded to victory.
        - The vanquished became the victor!

**God Can Use You**

- I have a simple message for you tonight:
  - **God uses weakness.**
  - **God uses inability.**
  - **God uses brokenness.**
- God isn’t waiting for things to get perfect.
  - God isn’t waiting for us to have it all together.
  - God isn’t waiting for us to get all of our ducks in a row.
  - God will use us just like we are.
- It is time that we, as a church, recognize that God has a greater purpose for us.
  - A greater purpose than just doing church for the sake of doing church.
  - A greater purpose than just going through the motions.
  - God wants to use this group of people to reach this city.
- And he’s not waiting for us to get bigger.
  - And he’s not waiting for us to get more qualified people.
  - He wants to use us just like we are.
- Does that mean he’s content with where we are?
God Can Use You

No! And neither should we be.

But I hate the mentality that says:

- When we reach a certain milestone, then God can use us.
- When we get to a certain size...
- When we have a certain budget...
- When we have a bigger youth group...
- When we build a new building...
  - God doesn’t need your building...
  - God doesn’t need your numbers...
  - God doesn’t need financial security...
- God needs a willing heart!
  - God needs someone
    - who is willing to hear his call
    - who is willing to accept his commission
    - who is willing to give themselves for the cause.

Moses

- When God meets Moses at the burning bush and calls him to go become an instrument in the hand of a mighty God,
  - Moses’ immediate reaction is to focus on his own abilities.
    - He wants to tell God all the reasons why he is disqualified.
  - God already knows!
    - God didn’t choose Moses because of his abilities.
    - God didn’t choose Moses because of his talents.
    - God didn’t choose Moses because of his education.
    - God chose Moses because he knew that Moses would respond to his call!
      - God chose Moses because he knew that no matter what the cost was,
        - Moses was going to respond in faith and do what God asked of him.
- God doesn’t need perfection
  - but what he does need is someone who is willing to lay down their life.
    - God needs a man
    - Or a woman
    - Or a church
  - Someone that is willing to give of themself until there is nothing left to give.
  - Someone who understands the principle that seed has to die before it can produce fruit.
  - Someone who is willing to surrender his or her will to his.

God can use us.

- We can have revival.
  - We can impact our city.
We don’t need better preachers.
- We don’t need different saints.
- We don’t need more qualified prayer warriors.
  - We just need to realize that God can and will use us if we will let him!

• Many times, the first thing we do
  o when God calls us to do something for him
    - is to go through our laundry list of reasons why we cannot be used by God.
• We all have our personal failures.
  o The litany of past defeats,
    - of false starts,
    - the list of the many times we’ve failed God
• **Like Moses, we get to fixated on who we are and what we aren’t.**
  o Moses said, God why would you send me?
    - Who am I?
    - What good am I?
    - I can’t do anything.
  o Do you know what God’s answer was?
    - HE said, “Because, I will go with you…”
      - That’s why I’m sending you.
      - Because your weakness complements my strength.
      - Because your inabilities showcase my abilities.
      - Because I take over where you leave off.

CLOSE
Our text tonight contains a profound truth.
• God delights in using the foolish things to confound the wise.
  o He uses the weak things to bring down the mighty
  o And he takes pleasure from using the base and despised things to tear down those things that are highly esteemed.
• Why?
  o Because it showcases the might of God.
  o Men cannot take glory in what only God can do.
• This isn’t about you and me:
  o It is about God!
    - A church is not made by the men and women that come into it.
      - but by the God who works through it.
  o If we ever accomplish anything in this city.
    - It won’t be because of our skilled preachers
    - It won’t be because of our quality singers
    - It won’t be because of our great musicians.
      - It will be because of our great God.
      - Because he is in it!
      - Because he goes with us!
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