

God Chooses the Rejected 8-28-2016

1 Cor 1:28-31

God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. 30 He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. 31 Therefore, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

During my family reunion...I was amazed God graciously called my lowly dad & me.

- God specializes in saving those that the world counts as nothing. 1 Cor 1:26-28

Christians are God's children by His sovereign choice not by accident.

- Salvation is a result of an inner call from God, rooted in His love & undeserved grace.

God deliberately chooses the "worldly" uneducated, foolish, weak, addicted, forgotten, broken, downcast, nobodies as His treasures & delight.

- Noah: Was rejected from society, Joseph: Ostracized by family; had a prison record, David: was an adulterer and murderer; Elijah: Was prone to depression, Disciples.

By & large (not many), the church is not composed of worldly wise, physically mighty or gifted, social elite, brilliant, famous, wealthy.

- People are saved in spite of those things, not because of them.
 - Worldly "advantages/springboards" are spiritual hindrances or obstacles because they may reduce sense of need.
- Rejoice if that were you when Jesus "called" you because you had more barriers to overcome!

God chooses the weak/foolish not because He can't do better but because He chooses not to do better.

- The weak not more worthy than powerful/wise but it is so the greatness of God's grace is seen...all glory to God not the wise/powerful/noble men. 1 Cor 1:28-29, Isa 42:8
 - Gospel is incompatible with human pride...that's the real issue.

It takes God's grace & humility to see that everyone, including you, is "not OK".
Lk 7:36-48

- Two debts do not represent the amount of sin but the awareness of their sin.
 - In both cases the debtors could never hope to pay their creditors.
 - Simon is as spiritually bankrupt as the woman, but didn't realize it.
- God must open our eyes so we can correctly & honestly see ourselves spiritually before a holy God. Rom 12:3, Lk 5:8, 1 Tim 1:15, Mt 5:3

- The humbling realization of our total spiritual destitution & our complete dependence on God's mercy/grace from beginning to end.
 - God is not becoming MORE holy or you becoming MORE sinful but your AWARENESS of both is growing.

The gospel is God meeting our failure with His victory; our weakness with His strength, our guilt with His grace; our badness with His goodness. 1 Cor 1:30-31, 2 Cor 12:9-10, Keller quote

- Because of what Jesus did for us on cross, we do not have to fear admitting how broken, sinful & not okay we really are.
 - Our hope is not in own goodness/OK-ness but in Jesus Christ, our righteousness & holiness.
- Jesus desires to draw near us in our unclean, weary, “not OK” life to heal without ridiculing or shaming us.
 - Jesus is not staying at a distance. The question is: are you keeping distance from Him & His body?
- NEXT WEEK: Are you comfortable with not being Okay?

“The Christian gospel is that I am so flawed that Jesus had to die for me, yet I am so loved and valued that Jesus was glad to die for me. This leads to deep humility and deep confidence at the same time. It undermines both swaggering and sniveling. I cannot feel superior to anyone, and yet I have nothing to prove to anyone. I do not think more of myself nor less of myself. Instead, I think of myself less.” — *Timothy Keller*