

Using Your Light

Text: Various

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Whatever is in your hand, serve God wholeheartedly with it!

2022 Theme: Life with the Indwelling Holy Spirit

2023 Theme: Be a Light. Use your light.

1. Peter and Andrew – willingness to serve

God used ordinary people with unique personalities and skills to impact those around them and further His kingdom.

We can say that they used their God-given talents, interests, and abilities to impact those around them and for His glory.

God has a knack for taking our ordinary strengths and abilities and molding them into usability for the kingdom.

What is needed from us? A willingness to be used and to listen to the call of God.

If your idea of serving is to avoid opportunities to serve, that is counter to Jesus Christ's life on the earth. If you close your eyes and heart to the world around you, you are not in the place of being used by God to impact those around you and point them to Jesus.

When we pray for opportunities, they will come to us. Many people are hurting and we have the answers. We may stumble with our words, we may not always have the best answers, we may miss opportunities, but God uses simple people with simple hearts and simple minds to do extraordinary things for Him.

Where are your talents? Can you use them to meet people? Can you use them to point people to Christ? Can you befriend those who share your talents? Peter struggled at times with his mouth and with the way he came across. All of us have shortcoming and rough edges, but God is in the business of working on those things and with a willing heart, you too can make an eternal difference in your community.

2. Moses – trust in God (Ex. 4:10-15)

Despite Moses' objections, God assured him that He would be with him (Ex. 4:12-14). God was more than a name; He was a real Person who would take care of him and the people every step of the way. Would there be times of doubt? Yes. Would Moses do everything correctly? No. But, Moses placed his life into God's hands and, despite his speech impediment; God used his talents and skills as a shepherd to ultimately lead the children of Israel.

Ex. 3:10:

1. This was a call from God.
2. God had equipped Moses specifically for the task He called him to do
3. This call came with divine enablement.

How do we respond to the clear call of God in our life? I hope that you agree God has called each of us to something, He has equipped us uniquely and specifically for the things He wants us to do, he has placed us here at this time and in our circles of influence for a unique purpose, And He also gives us divine enablement along with His presence to perform the tasks He has called us to do.

We can expect to encounter objections as we serve God and use our lights. In the end Moses saw the invisible God whose power trumped the Pharaoh. Seeing the Invisible means we see the God of the universe who loves and cares for us. Thus we should fear and trust Him. “We fear Him because He will stop at nothing to protect us from what harms us, because there are no limits on what He will do to give us a share in His holiness, no boundaries to how far He will go to produce His righteousness in us” (Robbins 46-7). This God has our best interests in mind and His ways are not evil. He is our Father and we can trust Him. He will lead us and He will empower us to use our lights. So, let us use them today!

3. Ruth - faithful

One of the main themes in the book is living a life of faithfulness and godliness in an unfaithful and ungodly world. Ruth proved time and time again that she would remain faithful to her mother-in-law, to Boaz, and to Jehovah. She may seem to be insignificant in that she was an upstaged woman living in a foreign land, a gleaner, a housewife, and an ordinary person. But because of her faithfulness, God used her mightily.

You might not be a leader; you might be an ordinary person living in a foreign land, remaining true to your faith in God and loving those around you. That life of quiet faithfulness was significant enough to warrant documentation by the Biblical writers and to be included in our scriptures. That gives hope and purpose to those people who are imbued with the gift of quiet faithfulness.

4. Paul – brilliant spokesman

Conclusion

Are you like Peter and Andrew, normal people whom God called as His disciples, who left their trade and followed Jesus and learned from Him and used their God-given talents and personalities to impact those around them?

Or are you like Moses, whose upbringing and skills God used to be a leader of a large group of people?

Or maybe you're like Ruth, a quiet person who lived an isolated life in a foreign land yet remained faithful to God and impacted those around her for the kingdom.

Or maybe you are like Paul, imbued with a brilliant mind and a long list of credentials, and God can use you to reach the deep thinkers of the world with the Gospel and the purpose and hope that God offers through His plan of salvation.