Brother Luke Kilchenman

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Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible.

# Today's Message: "Uniquely Qualified."

### INTRODUCTION

As we recognize the graduates from our Bible Institute today, it's important to remember that you don't need to finish a four-year program to start doing **SOMETHING** for God. We'll recall how God has used people, and we'll learn what's really holding us back from being as effective as we can be for God.

## A. God has used all kinds of people to accomplish His will.

- He's used the poor and the rich.
  - God uses the beggar Lazarus's life to illustrate an important contrast and teach us about hell. Luke 16:19-31
  - Job was the "greatest of all the men of the east" before he was tormented by Satan. After he endured, God blessed him with more than he had at the beginning. Job 1:1-3, 42:10-12
- He's used the young and the old.
  - Josiah was <u>EIGHT</u> years old when he started his reign, and 26 when he held the greatest passover a king has ever held.
    2Ch 34:1-8, 35:18; 1Ti 4:12
  - Abraham was <u>99</u> years old when God established His covenant with him. *Gen 17:1-2, 17, 19*
- He's used the weak and the strong, the stubborn and the meek, the simple and the learned, alike. *Jdg 16:28-30; Acts 9:1-6*
- Consider 1 Cor. 1:26-31.
  - It's easy for us to think how God can use strength or wisdom for His glory; but, He uses weakness and foolishness just as easily! He's God. Amen.

# B. We all have unique talents and are given our own perspective.

- Amos was a simple farmer, and God used him to great effect.
  - God spoke through Amos using language and analogies that played to his strengths. Amos 1:1, 3; 2:9, 13; 3:10

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- Moses was born in a time of turmoil, miraculously survived, and accomplished many things for God—including writing the first five books of the Bible!
  - God told Moses to use what he had to accomplish His will.

Exo 4:1-13

- Note the reason that Moses was there in the first place.
  Exo 2:11-15
- God forms each of us Himself. He knows us better than anyone, including ourselves.
  - He had plans for Jeremiah *very* early on. *Jer 1:4-8*
  - He likens us to clay formed by a potter. Why should we doubt God in any way? We shouldn't! Isa 64:8, Rom 9:6-24\*

**NOTE:** This is a passage which is twisted by Calvinists to say that God chooses who is saved and who is doomed from the beginning. Don't mistake foreknowledge with favor; God knows the end from the beginning, and he intercepts human history, but he still gives us a choice.

Gen 2:15-17

## C. What holds you back from the ministry?

- Ezekiel was afraid of the people, as were many before him. He was likely 25 years old at this time in his book; God still used him, and set his forehead as an "adamant harder than flint." *Eze 2:6-3:9*
- If God uses the poor and the rich, the young and the old, the weak and the strong, the stubborn and the meek, and the simple and the learned, the only thing holding us back is **OURSELVES**. *1 Sam 16:1-7; Jer 17:9*
- God wants to use all of us. We are all members in particular, and together we're meant to be a "peculiar people." **2** Co 12:12-27; Titus 2:11-15

### CONCLUSION

Examine yourselves this day, church. What are you allowing to get in the way of serving God? God will save us as we are, but we <u>MUST</u> seek to please Him to give Him the most glory in our lives. My challenge to you and to myself is to stop making excuses for why we can't and to start doing something. Do we know better than God? *Isa* 55:9