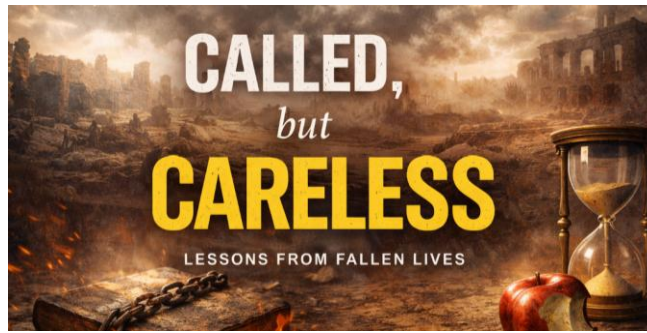




Series: Hard Truths | Big Help

INTRODUCTION

In almost every area of life, we have seen someone...

... incredibly talented... caring personality... destined for greatness ... so much potential...

And then... BOOM! They fell. They had so much potential, but they were **careless**.

It was not because they lacked skill, but because they lacked character and faithfulness.

This week's hard truth is one the older generation knows very well:

Character and faithfulness are much more valuable than *followers* and *fame*.

1. GOD'S CALLING – A Privilege and Responsibility

1 Samuel 16:7 – “...for the LORD seeth **not as man** seeth... the LORD looketh on **the heart**.”

1 Corinth 4:2 – “Moreover it is **required in stewards**, that a man be found **faithful**.”

Insights:

- ✓ David was not chosen because he was the most impressive; God chose for his heart.
- ✓ Notice that the steward is not praised for being influential, or amazing... but faithful.

Key Truth

- ✓ God is not looking for the most gifted servant, but the most willing and dependable one.

2. BIBLE WARNINGS – “Don’t waste your calling from God”

Men	Samson – Judges 16:20	Careless with his... <u>TEMPTATIONS</u> .
	Saul – 1 Samuel 15:22	Careless with his... <u>OBEDIENCE</u> .
	Solomon – 1 Kings 11:4	Careless with his... <u>COMPROMISE</u> .
	Demas – 2 Timothy 4:10	Careless with the... <u>WORLD</u> .
Women	Eve – Genesis 3:1-6	Careless with God's <u>WORDS</u> .
	Lot's Wife – Genesis 19:26	Careless with her... <u>CARES</u> .
	Miriam – Numbers 12:2	Careless with her... <u>PRIDE</u> .
	Sapphira – Acts 5:1-9	Careless with her... <u>HYPOCRISY</u> .

3. WHY YOUNG PEOPLE STRUGGLE WITH THIS

Because modern culture says and teaches:

- ✓ “Just do it” ... “Show off your gift” ... “Build your platform” ... “Be seen” ... “Go viral!”

Small compromises can become big falls...
One click. One secret. One relationship. One lie.
“Abstain from all appearance of evil.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:22

1 Peter 5:6 – “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God...”

Truth:

- ✓ A life platform without character becomes a recipe for disaster and failure.

Practical Applications:

- ✓ Do not trade your calling from God for a moment.
- ✓ Sometimes the biggest danger isn't that you are weak – it is thinking you are OK.

4. GOOD EXAMPLES IN THE BIBLE

Men	Joseph – Genesis 39:9	<i>Faithful in ...</i>	<u>SECRET.</u>
	Nehemiah – Nehemiah 6:3	<i>Focused in...</i>	<u>WORK.</u>
	Daniel – Daniel 1:8	<i>Purposed in ...</i>	<u>HEART.</u>
	Paul – 1 Corinth 9:27	<i>Disciplined in...</i>	<u>LIFE.</u>
Women	Ruth – Ruth 1:16	<i>Loyal in ...</i>	<u>FAITHFULNESS.</u>
	Hannah – 1 Samuel 1:15	<i>Prayerful in ...</i>	<u>TRIALS.</u>
	Abigail – 1 Samuel 25:33	<i>Wise in ...</i>	<u>COURAGE.</u>
	Mary – Luke 1:38	<i>Humble in...</i>	<u>SUBMISSION.</u>

5. THE OLDER GENERATION

Listen to their Testimonies:

- ✓ “I have seen very gifted people fall.”
- ✓ “I wish I had not been careless in life early on.”
- ✓ “The people who lasted were not always the smartest – they were the steadiest.”

Ecclesiastes 9:11

*... the race is not to the swift,
nor the battle to the strong...*

- ✓ YOUR TESTIMONY:

6. PRACTICAL WISDOM FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

- ✓ Pursue depth and character before visibility. **2 Tim 2:15** – Care more about God's approval
- ✓ Build private integrity before public influence. **Luke 16:10** – Little choices reflect big character
- ✓ Do not confuse giftedness with godliness. **2 Tim 3:5** – Looking good is not same as doing right
- ✓ Choose faithfulness over fast success. **Galatians 6:9** – Slow obedience outlasts quick popularity
- ✓ Surround yourself with people who are true. **Proverbs 27:6** – Flattery ruins; accountability cares

To the younger generation:

Your gift may get you noticed... but your character will determine if you last.

To the older generation:

Your steady faithfulness is more valuable over time than shining for a season.