

# Feeling Useless? How to Work for God

## Part 1: God Always Has Someone Ready

(2/2/25)

**Have you ever felt useless in God's Kingdom?** Maybe you see an evangelist, a missionary, or a Bible teacher actively working for God and think “*now there's someone making a difference!*”

**Have you ever thought you lacked something** whether knowledge, a skill set, or the boldness to share the Gospel with others? That if you were just more of this and less of that, you could do it?

**Have you ever wished you were doing more for God?**

This new sermon series will **help all of us do just that** and the good news is we can take BABY STEPS. Neither you nor I are required to make “one giant leap for mankind.”

Today's message is part 1 and will show us that **God ALWAYS has people ready in every time** and society to respond to the present darkness.

**And that person is YOU.**

**In every age in history no matter how dark** and evil the circumstances were, God always had people prepared to shine His Light. Every time. The Bible contains lots of history and my reading of it shows me that when things are really bad, like catastrophically horrible, the Lord knew ahead of time and *raised up said person for that time.*

When I was a younger Christian **I used to read about people like Elijah and Esther**, compare myself to them, *and feel useless.* I viewed them as Biblical Celebrities who were given this monumental calling and a major spotlight. Yes, they overcame and fulfilled their missions by God's grace and power...yet I still saw them as these titans of the faith far removed from someone like me.

What I've come to discover as I've gotten older is that *we don't have to become well known, don't need some huge platform* or mass attention to fulfill our part in God's plan.

**I realized that He can and is willing to work through us right where we're at.** In other words, people like you and I are called and raised up just like the Elijah's and Esthers.

**God NEVER turns a blind eye to the evil of the world. That He prepares people "for such a time as this."**

*Today's message is intended* to give everyone of us sitting here today:

- a sense of God-driven purpose and
- The revelation that we ARE the people He's raised up for this day and age.

There's lots of evil in the world and when I focus too long on darkness an interesting thing happens: **it's like I become an atheist.** Here's what I mean: *I find myself defaulting to "humans must do something about this!" and leave God out of that "labor."* Big mistake!

**On the flip side, there are some Christians who do nothing.** They have a *"God will take care of everything all by Himself"* mentality that's antithetical to what's written in the Scripture. If that's you: how many disciples did Jesus call upon? Remember He was God in the flesh Who had the ability to prophesy the future, raise the dead, heal the sick, and cast out demons. He stopped a storm with the wave of His hand and transfigured into His glory 2<sup>nd</sup> coming form at the top of Mt. Hermon.

**He chose to co-labor with 12 weak and flawed men.**

[1Co 3:9 ESV] 9 **For we are God's fellow workers.** You are God's field, God's building.

**God is a Worker and we are His "fellow workers."** The Lord chooses to not work alone despite being all knowing and all powerful. He uses humanity and angels as fellow workers to promote His glorious plan. He works through the Church and even unbelievers.

In the famous **Parable of the Sower**, Jesus showed Himself to be someone Who carries around a bag of seed and going into a field to plant said seed, which He identifies as the Word of God. All seed that lives grows up into something that must be harvested. Jesus laid the foundation for the church, and now:

**[Mat 9:37-38 ESV]** 37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

**Who do we think the laborers are?** Us. Even to this day we the Church are empowered to plant, water, and harvest the seed of Jesus:

**[Jhn 4:35-38 ESV]** 35 Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. 36 **Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.** 37 For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' 38 I sent **you** to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

Let's pause and take stock of what was happening both **spiritually and politically** in the time of Christ and the Apostles, because it was a time of great darkness.

- ROME was a hostile and imperialistic empire occupying Israel. Imagine if China took over the US "Red Dawn" style. Imagine they had armed soldiers stationed on the street corner, demanded crippling taxes, installed their own as our politicians, and demanded unquestioning submission.
- SPIRITUAL DEADNESS ruled. The Pharisees were the dominant sect of Judaism and remember these guys added to God's commands but called them God's commands. They placed impossible spiritual burdens on the people so that they lived in constant shame, guilt, and condemnation. At the point, God was seemingly silent for around 400 years.

Father sent Jesus, yes... **then Jesus immediately recruited 12 others** who went on to make disciples of their own.

**It wasn't a coincidence that John, Peter, Andrew and the like were born and lived at that time: God put them there.** He made sure that they would be around during a dark time to respond to Jesus' call of "follow Me."

**And so are we.**

***The evil in the world here in 2025 can seem overwhelming.*** The Devil does everything to make us feel small, ineffective, and useless. IDK about you, but there are times when I just wish the trumpet would sound and the Lord would descend from heaven with a shout...RIGHT NOW.

**Yet I ask you: is that our calling?** Has the Lord made you and I alive right now to spend every day looking up to see if our redemption draweth nigh? Has He appointed us to only wait until that time comes, going to our jobs and binge-watching Netflix until He shouts "Come up here!"? ***Or has He placed us here and now to plant seed, water it, and harvest it up until the day He returns?***

**God isn't blind to the evil in the world** or in our country. He's not just sitting on His throne in heaven and binge-watching everything going on down here while He eats popcorn. Whether a large world-wide event like a war or a house fire in Addison, the Lord knew it was going to happen long before it did. Not only did He know, *but he's ALREADY placed people to respond by shining His Light.*

**You and I are those people.**

**Does that mean we respond to every event?** No. Our human limitations prevent that and the Lord knows the same. *Let's trust Him to nudge us* when He wants us to act and word of warning: we're not always in the mood. Our "feelings" don't always align with the Holy Spirit "nudge" and therefore cannot be our guide. I can recall way too many times when the Holy Spirit said "you're up!" and I had no desire or inclination at the time.

**You and I are responders, but the Lord is proactive.**

**You & I react and respond to things because we don't know the future like God does.** If we'd known that price of eggs was going to increase this much, this fast, we might have bought more previously! Who knew we'd have to make multiple payments for a dozen?! Therefore we tend to respond to things as they happen.

**Not the Lord. He knew ahead of time and prepared both people and things.**

In the early 2000's there was a popular song titled **"Days of Elijah"** and the chorus has us gleefully singing the same "And these are the Days of Elijah..." While it's an energetic and encouraging song, *the real "days of Elijah" as told in the Scriptures are awful!*

Ahab is the King and he's weak and feckless. His wife Jezebel is a pagan unbeliever who has **imposed her religion and laws on Israel...forcibly.** We complained about social media censorship during Covid, putting us in "Facebook jail" and even shutting down our accounts. The highest levels of gov't were calling for the same, even making backroom deals and demands with major corporations and news media to suppress free speech.

*That was nothing compared to what Jezebel did:*

**[1Ki 18:4 AMP]** 4 for when **Jezebel destroyed the prophets of the LORD**, Obadiah took a hundred prophets and hid them by fifties in a cave, and provided them with bread and water.)

## **Israel's prophets were speaking out against her actions & her**

**religion.** Remember she imported her own prophets who, much like the current fake news media, were spreading lies and disinformation. They were given large, public platforms with plenty of funding to preach her message to the masses and about half the country believed her.

## **She OUTLAWED the preaching and prophesying of**

**God's word**, pronouncing a prison or death sentence on any prophet who did! Now look who God raised up to respond: first was **Obadiah**, not to be mistaken for the prophet who wrote a book in the OT of the same name. Obadiah of 1 Kings 18 was the "Chief of Staff" in Ahab's palace.

Stop and consider: despite Ahab's corruption, Jezebel's evil, and hundreds of false prophets living in the palace, **God placed a righteous man there who had not yet bent the knee to Baal.**

As soon as Jezebel began her violent persecution, *Obadiah realized God had raised him up for such a time as this...and he acted.* He sequestered the true prophets of God in a cave, bringing them food and water. God put him there AHEAD of time to respond to the rising tide of evil.

- I chose Obadiah because he's not a Biblical Celebrity like Elijah who went on to call down fire from heaven and then ride up to heaven in a fiery chariot.
- I chose Obadiah because he's the one who also enabled Elijah a personal meetup with Ahab, to speak to him directly, then set up the famous confrontation with the Prophets of Baal.
- I chose Obadiah because I believe people like you and I can relate to him more.
- His role may not have been as dramatic as Elijah's, but it was vital. It was what God raised him up to do.

**Esther was an amazing, faithful, and bold woman of God** who is the impetus behind the famous verse "raised up for such a time as this." She became the Queen of Persia, realized a plot against her people the Jews from Haman, and exposed him at great risk to her own life.

## **Yet it wasn't just her the Lord raised up for the great evil**

**brewing in the Persian empire:** but there was her uncle **Mordecai**. The Bible doesn't say, but I'm willing to bet Mordecai said "*why God?!*" in his life. The man was present with Babylon attacked Jerusalem and destroyed it. He was taken as a slave to the same country. I can only imagine him saying "*Lord, is my only purpose in life to suffer?!*"

**Then Esther was orphaned and he agreed to raise her.** Let's look at the role he played and realized that, even though he wasn't as famous nor his deeds as dramatic as hers, he was clearly called by God.

- When Esther was the one King Xerxes chose (there was a “contest”), Mordecai told her **not to tell anyone that she was Jewish**. If she had, she would have been persecuted immediately and possibly disqualified to be the King's wife. (Esther 2:10).
- Mordecai went to palace to **check on her every day** during this time so that knew she had someone who truly cared about her and had her back. His support empowered her to fulfill God's calling in her life to be chosen as the King's wife. (It was a whole year.)
- It was Mordecai who **discovered an assassination plot against the King** himself by two men in the palace. He told Esther, who told the King, which increased the King's trust both in Esther and Mordecai. (Esther 2:21-23)
- Haman was promoted immediately after. Haman who would try and provoke the King to attack the Jews.
- At Haman's swearing in **everyone bowed to him except Mordecai**, who operated in supernatural discernment, realizing Haman was a snake. Everyone else was fooled including about Haman, believing him to be a good man. Only Mordecai saw through him.
- Mordecai is the one who **discovers Haman's plot** to kill his own people. He goes to the public square, dressed in sackcloth, and begins yelling the same at the top of his lungs!
- Word gets back to Esther, who speaks to Mordecai through a servant. **Mordecai has an incriminating letter from Haman**, absolute proof of his betrayal, that he gives to the Esther, who shows the King.
- Esther tells Mordecai to **fast and pray among the Jewish population** for three days, pleading to God for mercy and for the truth to be exposed. While he does that, she approaches the King.
- From there, the truth comes to light and Haman ends up swinging from gallows before he can move forward on his murderous plot.

**Esther rightfully deserves the spotlight**, because clearly God gives it to her in the Book bearing her own name. She acted to save her people and fulfill God's prophecy that Israel would be preserved in an evil time to fulfill THEIR destiny.

Yet she wasn't alone. ***From before she was born, God raised up Mordecai.***

- He was there to be her dad, provide for, and protect her when her own parents died.
- He was there to disciple her in the ways of faith to Yahweh.
- He gave her wise counsel when she needed it the most, his experience during the Babylonian invasion & captivity giving him great wisdom she didn't have.
- He checked on her constantly—was someone who truly cared about her.
- He discovered the plot against the King which built much needed trust.
- He discovered the plot against the Jewish people by Haman, boldly and publicly speaking the truth at great risk to his life.
- He led the cries to God to have mercy and help them overcome the evil one.

**He didn't get the spotlight.** The book in the Bible wasn't named after him. He's normally cited as being "Esther's Uncle" and not much more. ***Yet God called him and gave him purpose. Esther wouldn't have been the woman of God she was if it weren't for him.***

- We may never be an Elijah who called fire down from heaven.
- We may never be Esther who stopped a violent plot against an entire nation.
- Maybe we're more like an Obadiah who arranges things and gets food for people in a time of need.
- Perhaps we resemble a Mordecai who cares for and disciples someone who has their own calling to fulfill.
- Who knows? God does.

Everyone in the Church has a part to play that Father God has ordained and planned in His miraculous mind.  
**No one is useless.**