

Intro:

Tomorrow, we celebrate and observe “*Memorial Day*.” Whereon we reflect upon and honor the men (and in some cases, women) who have fallen in the line of duty while serving our country!

I pass by the *Veteran’s Memorial Cemetery* there in Chattanooga each time I go visit my mom in rehab. It always brings me a solemn yet thankful feeling when I think about those “*who gave all!*”

The MARINES say they look for “*a few good men!*” Well, so does God my friend (and women) to serve Him!

“God’s Search for Men”

Scripture Reading: **Ezekiel 22:30**

Text:

Ezekiel 22:30 (KJV)

³⁰ And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.

God created man in His image (Gen. 1:26; 2:7).

He was created for fellowship with God.

Sin marred this fellowship, but God made a way to redeem man from his sin (Gen. 3:15).

God would send Jesus into the world to die for the sins of man (Isa. 53:5).

Through this incarnation, man could be born again (John 3:1-8).

After being born again man is called to do God's work (John 15:16; Mark 16:15).

John 15:16 (KJV)

¹⁶ Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

Mark 16:15 (KJV)

¹⁵ And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

I. GOD LOOKS FOR DECISIVE MEN

Joshua 24:14-15 (KJV)

¹⁴ Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD.

¹⁵ And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

- A. Joshua decided that he would serve God (Josh. 24:14).
- B. Joshua decided that his family would serve God.

The husband is the leader of the home (Eph. 5:23).

Ephesians 5:23 (KJV)

²³For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

Since he is the leader, he should be the spiritual leader.

II. GOD LOOKS FOR MEN WITH DESIRE

- A. Desire to know the **person** of God (Phil. 3:10). Knowing God in a personal way (II Tim. 1:12).

- B. Desire to know the **plan** of God (Ps. 32:8). God will make His will known to us if we seek Him.

Psalm 32:8 (KJV)

⁸I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.

- C. Desire to know the **power** of God (I Peter 1:5). His power is available to keep us (I Peter 1:5). Note Paul's words about the power of God (Rom. 1:16).

1 Peter 1:5 (KJV)

⁵Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Romans 1:16 (KJV)

¹⁶For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

- D. Desire to have the **protection** of God (Ps. 91). God is able to guide man through all times of trouble.

III. GOD LOOKS FOR MEN WITH DEDICATION

- A. Dedicated to **serve** God. It takes a strong person to serve God.
- B. Dedicated to **stand** for God. Anyone can quit; anyone can go along with the crowd.

But to stand and be different is difficult and requires God's help (Phil. 4:13).

C. Dedicated to **suffer** for the Lord. See II Timothy 3:12.

IV. **GOD LOOKS FOR MEN WITH DETERMINATION**

A. Willing to suffer for the Lord as Paul suffered (Acts 20:24).

B. Willing to allow Satan to persecute as Paul was persecuted.

Conclusion:

- God's work only goes forward as man does His work.
- God could use angels, but He depends on man.
- He worked through the judges, kings, prophets, disciples, apostles, and church leaders.
- He works through the laymen, who dedicate their lives to Him.

- *The greatest need in any church is dedicated laymen.*

Prayer:

Invitation Hymn: (Bro. Steve selects)

Bruce Beach—5/28/23—a.m. @ WHBC, Dalton