

Bible Studies for Life for August 9: Have you found your place?

July 28, 2009

The scene is outside the door of a preschool Sunday School class. A member of the nominating committee is waiting to ambush anybody as they walk by the door. The preschool class needs a teacher.

A man turns the corner and the member of the nominating committee approaches him, "Have you ever thought about being a Sunday school teacher?" The man replies, "I have thought about teaching, I am a researcher and love studying the Bible."

"Have you ever worked with children?" "No, I don't have any experience with children. I don't think I would be comfortable with that. But, I would pray about teaching young adults. I teach history at the community college."

The nominating committee member persuades the man to take the preschool class. After one week in the class, the man never is seen again in the preschool area.

The mistake made by the member of the nominating committee was not listening to the God-given abilities the man had. When a member of the nominating committee comes calling, do you answer the call, or hit ignore on your cell phone? It seems that in church work, servants get placed in areas they have no business being in.

How does one discover his place of service in God's will?

Use your God-given abilities (Exodus 35:30-36:1)

When Moses was leading the children of Israel to build the tabernacle, the outpouring of offerings toward the project was overwhelming. Moses needed people with skills to weave the clothes for the tabernacle, to work with stones and wood as well those skilled in working with precious metals. Where did he find these people?

“Then Moses said to the Israelites, ‘See, the Lord has chosen Bezalel son Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts.’” (vv. 30-31).

God equips his children to accomplish his works. Bezalel possessed many God-given abilities, “to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood and engage in all kinds of artistic craftsmanship” (Exodus 30:32-33). Bezalel was not the only one who had these abilities as both he and Oholiab, taught their skills to others.

God used the skills of Bezalel and Oholiab to construct the tabernacle and its furnishings. God has given us all skills and abilities that can be used for his glory. If you have a knack for numbers, serve on the finance committee. If you like to be around people, serve as a greeter. Find your place of service by praying, asking God to use your personality, your skills and your abilities to serve in the right place to further his kingdom.

Open yourself to a divine calling (Jeremiah 1:4-8)

If you’ve ever had to take a preschool age child to a new Sunday school class, you know the break between the child and parent can be difficult. When my son Ashton was 3 years old, we visited a new church. We did not know how he would react when placed in new surroundings.

After two weeks, it all got better, and he looked forward to going to Ms. Paige’s class. As I observed his new Sunday school teacher in action with the other kids, I could tell something was different about her. Not only was

she a preschool Sunday school teacher, she taught kindergarten in the public school system.

One would think that a public school teacher would want a break on Sunday from teaching children—not the case with Ms. Paige. She knew and understood her divine calling from the Lord. It was to be a children’s teacher.

Jeremiah served as a prophet to Judah. The Bible tells us, “Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, before you were born, I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations” (v. 5).

The Bible teaches us that God has a purpose for each Christian. Some are called for specific purposes and particular jobs like Jeremiah. All believers must be open to God’s call to service and accept it cheerfully. We should not be afraid of what is asked of us by the Lord.

God tells Jeremiah, “Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescuer you” (v. 8). Jeremiah was only a child when God called him, and he had reservations because of his age. God tells us not to worry because he will be present always.

Are you open to God’s divine call?

Honor the Lord in whatever you do (Colossians 3:16-17)

Do you look for ways to honor the Lord in every aspect of your daily life?

As the upcoming high school football season approaches, I will be calling my fifth season of Marshall High School football on the radio. I never will forget the lesson I learned a few seasons back from some old friends who call the Kilgore High School games on the radio.

As I walked into the booth to say hello to Doug Smith and Don Hedrick, I caught them praying before they went on the air. No, they were not praying

for another Kilgore victory but praying for the Lord to direct them in all they say and for his name to be glorified.

The Apostle Paul in Colossians encourages believers, “And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him” (Colossians 3:17).

The phrase “do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus” means bringing honor to Christ in all that you do each day. As a Christian, you represent Christ wherever you go. The lesson I learned under the “Friday Night Lights” is while I am calling the game on the radio, I must do it in a way that honors Jesus. Because of the example I observed, I now pray before each broadcast; asking the Lord Jesus to give me the words to say that bring honor to his name.

We are to honor God in every aspect of our daily life.

God has a place of service for all believers. A believer will be used by God to fulfill his will in their lives when they are open to his divine call and are willing to use their God-given abilities to honor him.