

## THINGS WE DON' T HAVE TO HAVE TO BE OF VALUE IN THE LORD' S WORK Jhn. 15: 1-8

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. It seems that. some people are somewhat confused about their ability to serve God.
  - 1. It seems that some have the idea that in order to be of service they must be preacher, elder, deacon, etc.
  - 2. God does not expect the same work or fruit from every individual
  - 3. However, He does expect work according to ability of each Individual.
- B. In an effort to combat the problem of self-depreciation that Paul deals with in 1Cor 12:15-17 let's look at some things that some seem to think are necessary, that we really don't have to have to be of value to the Lord.

### DISCUSSION:

#### I. ELOQUENCE OF SPEECH (forceful and fluent expression)

- A. Moses Ex 4:10
  - 1. Not eloquent, slow of speech, of a slow tongue
  - 2. Yet God chose him to lead His people
- B. Paul 1Cor 2:1-4 (not with excellence of speech)
- C. Not necessary to have years of training & experience
  - 1. Paul had no experience in the Gospel
  - 2. Began immediately to preach Acts 9:19,20
  - 3. Had words of Holy Spirit (so do we)

#### II. ADVANCED FORMAL EDUCATION:

- A. People ask "what preacher's school did you attend?"
- B. Peter & John ignorant & unlearned men Acts 4:13
  - 1. They preached with boldness
  - 2. What is necessary is to "be with Jesus"
- C. Those who seem to be wise must become as fools 1Cor 3:18
  - 1. Not many wise men after the flesh are called 1Cor 1:26
  - 2. God chose the foolish things to confound the wise 1Cor 1:27
  - 3. when men begin to trust in their own wisdom it makes them proud haughty and arrogant

#### III. GREAT MATERIAL WEALTH

- A. Poor widow Mk 12:41-44 cast in more than rich – why? because of her attitude toward what she had.
- B. John the baptist Matt.3:4 clothes & food those of the common laborers of his day.
- C. Rich young ruler Matt 19:16-24 (Wealth hindered him)
- D. Wealth often detrimental to spirituality 1Tim 6:9,10

## IV. EVERYTHING CONVENIENT AND OPPORTUNE

- A. Those bidden to supper found it inconvenient Lk 14:16-24 (bought ground, oxen, married a wife)
- B. Paul & Silas didn't look for convenient time Acts 16:19-34
  - 1. In jail for preaching yet still preached
  - 2. ABILITY + OPPORTUNITY = RESPONSIBILITY
- C. Too much stress is put on convenience not enough on doing
  - 1. "We want": paved parking, carpet, new benches, etc, etc. etc.
  - 2. These things not necessarily wrong to have, but we need to examine the motivation for our wants.
  - 3. Many look for a convenient season in various different aspects of serving the Lord just as Felix did in obeying the gospel Acts 24:25

### CONCLUSION:

- A. Moses not eloquent, yet chosen by God to lead His people out of bondage (Moses had a desire to serve God)
- B. Peter & John ignorant & unlearned, yet chosen by Christ. himself as apostles (they had a desire to serve)
- C. John the baptist not rich, yet prepared the way for Jesus Christ (he had a desire to serve)
- D. Paul did not wait on opportunity, he made them he did not wait for convenient season
- E. ALL THAT IS NECESSARY IS TO LEARN GOD'S WILL, OBEY IT, LIVE IT AND TEACH IT TO OTHERS Jer 20:9
- F. God did not ask about our ability or our inability, just our AVAILABILITY