

The Place of Insignificance

Over the years I have learn to ask questions about what I read in the Bible. The other day while I was in Poland I remember he question that Nathaniel ask his brother Philip when he first heard about Jesus. Nathanael said, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" (John 1:46) As I thought about that question I wondered why he had said it. That led me to dig and found out that Nazareth was a small town in the mountains of Lebanon. It was a very insignificant town with a bad reputation. As I mediated on this I began to remember that the Bible is full of insignificant things and people. Why did God choose to have His Son raised in small town Israel? Why did God call David to be the king of Israel when he just a boy? Why did Jesus speak so many times about the mustard seed? The reason why is that God loves to use the insignificant to amaze us. It is a principle that runs through out the Bible.

The Apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 1:26-29, "For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; 27 but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, 28 and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, 29 so that no man may boast before God." Paul clearly says in verse 26 that what he is writing about is our calling. I believe that we all know that we are all called to achieve things in the Kingdom of God. So Paul is talking to all of us. The point that Paul is trying to get across is that God chooses to use the foolish, weak, base and despised thing of the world to get the attention of the wise and strong.

In the society that we live in we have put so much importance on the wise, big and successful things that we have many times forgotten that God choice of who and what to use many times starts with the insignificant. This has caused some to feel that they don't have a place in the Body of Christ because they don't believe they are significant. The first thing that we need to understand is that significance doesn't come because of position. In the airport in Amsterdam they have a museum dedicated to the artist Van Gogh. In it you will find millions of dollars worth of paintings. Why are those paintings so expensive? Is it because of the canvas or the paints? No, it is because of the artist. We are God's workmanship. He began creating us before we were born and is still working in us today. We are all significant in the eyes of God. God loves us all the same because he has created us different. He has created us to vessels of His glory and power on earth. We may fell and look insignificant but we all have tremendous potential to turn the world around! There is a significant seed in us that has the power and ability to give salvation, peace and restoration to mankind.

Why does God choose to use insignificant people to do His work? Paul answered that question in verses 28 and 29. Paul said in the last part of verse 25, "so that He may nullify the things that are." God's intentions are to bring the things that are in the world to nothing. What is He going to replace those things with? He will replace them with those things that the world sees as insignificant. That means us. We as Christians may be despised thought of as weak and foolish but when Christ comes to set up his reign on earth we will rule!

Then in verse 29 Paul says, "so that no man may boast before God". God is going to receive all the Glory. It is a fact. We may as well start now to glorify Him in all we do. The Lord doesn't want anyone to be able to boast about their own achievements. He is one who must receive all the glory. That is why God chooses to use the insignificant to fulfill His work in the earth.

If you are feeling insignificant today that is exactly where God wants you to be. Now, expect Him to use you to reach the world for His glory.