

OMR Convocation May 5, 2018

Workshop D

But I'm just a Beyond Our Fears

Discussion Outline

1. Welcome (pass out handouts)
2. Fill out Statistical Paper Together
3. What are some of the fears that make you say: But I'm just a....(how can God use me?)
4. Examples of Biblical characters God has used that might give us confidence
5. Focus on Samuel and David – 1 Samuel 16:1-13
6. What problem did Moses have? What did God call him to do?
7. What problem did Saul/Paul have? What did God call him to do?
8. We are part of the Body of Christ. What is it God is calling you to do?

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How can God use me I'm just a Beyond Our Fears

I have prepared a list of biblical examples of people who were ordinary, yet God used for extraordinary tasks.

1. Shepherd boy, youngest in his house - slays Goliath, writes many Psalms for worship and to please King Saul, and is anointed at God's direction to become the Greatest King of Israel. David
2. Young teenage girl. Betrothed to an older man, hasn't really done much of anything in her life - becomes, at the disclosure of an Angel, the mother of the Son of God, the Messiah of Israel. Mary
3. Relatively unknown Cupbearer for the King in Persia is called by God to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. Nehemiah
4. Rough and tumble Fisherman with emotional zealousness and a big mouth becomes the Rock on whom Jesus builds his church. Peter
5. Why can't God use you?

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I'm Just a....Beyond our fears

As we look at our denominations emphasis on Discipleship we also must look at ourselves and try to determine what barriers we encounter, each day, to becoming all we can be in sharing our faith with others, with the goal of making new disciples of the unbelieving. This workshop will focus on our fear to share our faith with others because we wonder "how can God use me, I'm just a".

How can God use me, I'm just a

What occupations do we have gathered here today?

What ages?

Under 21	22-40	41-60	61-80	81+

What ethnic backgrounds?

What education levels?

GED	High School	Trade School	BA/BS	Masters	Ph.D/Doctor

Religious Background? What Denominations including Atheist?

Church Teaching Positions

SS Elementary	Sun School Adult	VBS	Bible Study	Small Group

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Ten Scripture Verses Concerning Fear

1. Deuteronomy 31:8 – “It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.”
2. Romans 8:28 – “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”
3. Isaiah 43:1 – “But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.”
4. Isaiah 41:10 – “...fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”
5. Psalm 18:2 – “The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”
6. Isaiah 35:4 – “Say to those who have an anxious heart, “Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.”
7. Joshua 1:9 – “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”
8. Psalm 34:4 – “I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.”
9. Psalm 27:1 – “The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”
10. 2 Timothy 1:7 – “...for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.”

Occupations of the Disciples before they were Called by Jesus

Andrew	Fisherman	
Peter	Fisherman	
James	Fisherman	Business Owners – hired others to work
John	Fisherman	Business Owners – hired others to work
Matthew	Tax Collector	
Simon the Canaanite	Zealot	
Thomas	Fisherman?	
Nathanael (Bartholomew)	Fisherman?	
Phillip	Tradesman	
James (Son of Alphaeus)	Tradesman	
Judas (Thaddaeus)	Tradesman	
Judas Iscariot	?	Struggled with Financial Insecurity (Treasurer)
Saul/Paul	Tentmaker	

2018 Convocation - Workshop D "But I'm just a.... Beyond Our Fears"

- Led by pastors Bill Maki and Bob Quaintance

How many times have you thought, "How can God use me, I'm just a...." (fill in the blank)? This workshop will address those feelings of inadequacy and show how God can use the talents you have and supply what you need to further the kingdom. No talent is too small or obscure for God to put to use in his kingdom. When God calls, how will you answer?

1. **God Chose David 1 Samuel 16:1-13** (especially vs. 7)

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before him."⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."

Who did God choose?

What was the basis of God's choice?

2. **God Chose Paul Acts 9:1-16** (especially vs. 15)

¹⁵But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel."

In a broad way – what was Paul called to do and what did Paul accomplish in his ministry?

3. **What could Paul NOT do well? 2 Corinthians 10:10-12, 17** (especially vs. 10)

¹⁰For they say, "His letters are weighty and strong, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech of no account."

What do Paul's detractors say he can't do well?

How does Paul respond? (see 2 Corinthians 11:1-6 - especially vs. 6)

⁶ Even if I am unskilled in speaking, I am not so in knowledge; indeed, in every way we have made this plain to you in all things.

4. **What was the source of Paul's strength? 2 Corinthians 12:1-10** (especially vs. 9)

⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

What had Paul learned in his life with Christ?

5. God Chose Moses – and his response Exodus 3 & 4

What did God call Moses to do? See Exodus 3:10, 18

What was Moses' response?

3:10

3:13

4:1

4:10

4:13

What did god say in response to that?

3:11

3:14-15

4:2,6

4:11-12

4:14-16

6. What does it mean that God makes you part of the body of Christ?

1 Corinthians 10:16-17 Maundy Thursday 2nd Lesson – Year B

¹⁶ The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? ¹⁷ Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

What does it mean to be part of the body of Christ?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

1 Corinthians 10 & 11

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

1 Corinthians 12:12-30

1 Corinthians 12:31 – 13:13

7. When Jesus looks at you, what does He see? Ephesians 5:26-27

²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

Revelation 21:1-7 (especially vs. 2)

And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

8. What does God say about you? John 15:9;16

vs. 9 *As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.*

vs. 12-13 ¹² *“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.*

¹³ *Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.*

vs. 16 *You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide,*

vs. 16 *so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.*

Philippians 1:6

⁶ *And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*

What promise does the Word of God give to you?

QUOTES FROM Leadership Coaching by Tony Stoltzfus (pages 48-52)

Let's step back for a moment and look at the way God works with us on the change issues in our lives. Even before you ever became a Christian, God had already chosen you and decided he wanted to work with you. In fact, Paul states in Ephesians, 2:1-3

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

A pretty ugly picture, isn't it?

Everything about us screamed out for God to give us what we deserved and blot us off the face of the earth. But, amazingly, God saw something different:

⁴ *But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly*

places in Christ Jesus,⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

God's response to us was totally out of keeping with what we looked like on the surface.

Think about it: what did God see in you when he made that incomprehensible choice? What is all the problems and failures and lost promises of your life led Christ to put off His divine nature and be betrayed by His best friends just to reach out to you? Paul cites two reasons for this amazing gift: grace and destiny.

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them

God gave you something you didn't deserve (life in place of death) simply as an expression of His own character. He is grace and He is mercy and therefore He chose to act toward you out of His own heart.

But there's a second reason: God made you for something. Even when your life was a mess, God never lost sight of your destiny – the good works he had created you for. God's perception wasn't limited to your obvious problems. He looked at what you were made to be, and seeing that, He loved you – enough to choose you to become part of the bride for His only son.

God saw our destiny and believed in what we could become. But God didn't stop with just seeing our potential: He did something concrete to bring it to fruition. Through Jesus' sacrifice He set up a relationship with us, and through that relationship we received the power to change in ways we never could on our own.

God can accept us because Jesus is sitting right next to Him vouching for us: "Father, this is the bride I want to marry. I see her in terms of her destiny – who you made her to be and who she really is – and I know that through me that's what she will become."

Jesus sees us with an unconditional love as well as an unconditional belief in our destiny. There are plenty of religions that say, "Clean up your act and then you'll be acceptable to Do." Christianity acknowledges the impossibility of that proposition. We can know what is right, we can even set our will on acting right, but we simply can't do it. The gift of unconditional, sacrificial, believing relationship is what makes our transformation possible.

Do you see yourself and others as God sees you and them? In 2 Corinthians 5:16-17 Paul says,

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.^[a] The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

We want to instinctively tune into our/their God-given capacity, their untapped potential, the fleeting glimpses we can see of the image of God. Changing how we see ourselves and others (*as Christ sees us and others*) opens the door to incredible transformation.