

SESSION 13: CHOOSING (pt 7)
Called ♦ Chosen ♦ Appointed

Recap from last week's class:

What does it mean to be “great” in His kingdom?

“So He said to them, “You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but ***it is for those for whom it is prepared by My Father.***” **24** And when the ten heard *it*, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers. **25** But Jesus called them to *Himself* and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. **26** Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. **27** And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— **28** just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” **(Matthew 20: 23-28)**

Ps Benji reminded us that the secret to greatness is running away from pleasing man, and running into the presence of the Father.

Jesus was about his “*Father’s business*” - **49** And He said to them, “Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father’s business?” (Luke 2:49-50)

We must also be about the Father's business. This means we are doing the Father's will, the Father's way, and the Father's pleasure. We can only know His will, His way, and what brings Him pleasure if we are abiding in Him, spending time in His presence, to know Him. In Luke 5:15-16 it says that He, Jesus, often withdrew to the wilderness to pray; another version calls it a “lonely place to pray.” Jesus understood that the secret to knowing His Father’s business was to spend time alone with Him, seeking to know His heart. In other words, when we are spending time with Him, we are doing the “Father's business.”

This prophetic warning came during this class: “Beware of people who elevate you and say you are good at “this and that.” This is a trap to keep you from doing the Father's business.”

A. Chosen because of Fruitfulness

God calls all of us, but according to scripture, few are actually chosen for the work of His kingdom. He can only choose those who are *faithful* and *fruitful*.

(14 "For many are called, but few are chosen." Matt 22:14)

Some questions to ask ourselves:

- Am I allowing the Father to "prepare" me? (What changes can I see?)
- What is the motive of my heart? (Am I seeking man's favor or God's?)
- Can I serve others without expecting anything in return from them?
- Am I taking care of and stewarding the needs of my own family first?
- Am I working because I want to gain something from God (favor, financial gain, position, titles etc)

We will begin next class discussion on these points below:

Just because we are involved in ministry does not mean we are fruitful; it does not mean that we are in right relationship with God. Doing ministry does not mean that God knows us and we know Him. Your gift is not proof. Fruit is the proof!

- ☐ **Gifts can operate without fruit** - that is why we read in the Bible that people may cast out demons, prophecy in Jesus name but still God will say that He does not know them.

Ministry is not the Father's business unless we are doing it according to His will, His way, and His pleasure. This will bear fruit. Fruitfulness is the natural result of abiding in Him (John 15). Where is your fruit?

 **Ministry is "work" but all work is not necessarily a result of abiding in Him and being about the Father's business.**

We do need to be involved in the **work** of the ministry but the question is, "why?" Why are we involved in ministry? What is our heart's motive? We should be serving God and others out of love and humility and not working to gain something for ourselves. Our love for God and His people should compel us to work for His Kingdom. Abiding in Him (John 15) builds a relationship between He and us that then helps us to serve well. He came to give His life as a ransom and to serve all of mankind. As we abide in Him, we take on this same nature and character of His. We will know his heart, His will, His way and His pleasure - and then we will become an extension of Him in the earth.

B. Chosen because of God's Covenant

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹not of works, lest anyone should boast.

You are chosen by grace, not by “works.”

Let's look at the differences:

Work: earned Grace: gift

Work: limited Grace: unlimited

Work: we exalt us Grace: we exalt God

GRACE: Through grace you enter the presence of God with love and confidence. Grace shifts your eyes to look on God, not yourself. Remember, you are a son and daughter of the Father. He looks down on you and loves you - that is the grace of GOD!

WORK: The old covenant was law based and teaches us to earn blessings. Law will always cause you to focus on your faults. Law will always cause you to live in guilt and condemnation. Any mentality of guilt and condemnation is of the law, and not of grace.

Remember these 2 practical comparisons:

1. The law will cause you to always live in “the courtroom of God.”
2. Grace will always cause you to live in “the living room of God.”

We are saved by grace so if you will rely on grace, you will live a victorious life. Grace brings freedom to you - Law enslaves you. God sets you free. It is not by your own strength, but His.

Grace brings conviction, resulting in repentance and forgiveness. Law brings condemnation, resulting in guilt and bondage.

When we truly have an understanding and a revelation of His grace, we will serve Him out of a deep love and reverence. This produces humility in us that positions us for Him to choose us for the work of His kingdom.

C. Chosen because of a willingness to change

- Humble
- Willing to change
- No pride
- No rebellion

God will never allow rebellion if you are in a leadership position because rebellion is witchcraft.

“For rebellion *is* as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness *is* as iniquity and idolatry.” (1 Samuel 15:23)

Timothy was humble and submissive to the person in authority over him, Paul in this case. He surrendered to Paul’s leadership and requests. He was willing to change. He could have refused circumcision by claiming freedom from the law, but he respected Paul and his authority. He **yields under authority** = SUBMISSIVE SPIRIT

“Paul wanted to have him (*Timothy*) go on with him. And he took *him* and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek.” (Acts 16:3)

Here we see a situation where Paul, as the leader is asking something very difficult from Timothy. What was Paul’s motive though? Was he doing this out of some kind of power trip or to prove something that benefited him or his ministry? No, his motive, his request was all kingdom minded. He wanted to make sure that they removed any possible barriers that could make it difficult for the Jews to receive the message of the gospel that Timothy would be bringing.

....“because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his (*Timothy’s*) father was Greek.” (Acts 16:3)

1. Acts 16:2 Timothy was well spoken

- ☐ he was proven by the church and leaders even in the surrounding cities

2. 16:1 Timothy was a disciple

- ☐ You have to be committed to the process. It takes time to be discipled. It took Timothy 6 years. God is dealing with things in you because He knows it will be needed in the future for you to fulfill the calling.

3. Timothy overcame personal issues

- ☐ His family condition was challenging- mixed marriage (father was greek, mom was a Jew; his dad worshiped Zeus, His mom worshiped God) This created a reputation throughout the community that was well known by people. (Because of this Paul wanted to circumcise Timothy).

Timothy knew how to overcome his problems.

This shows:

- **willing heart**
- **submission**
- **teachability**

You have to learn how to overcome your personal issues. This will require you to have a heart that is willing to submit to God's authority in your life, yield to Him, learn what He is asking of you and make the **change**. Timothy allowed Paul to circumcise him, even when it was very painful. Change can feel painful, but it is necessary to yield to God and the culture of His kingdom if we want to be chosen for His work.

Watch your heart throughout this process. This is very important. Remember, everything always comes back to the heart.

You can obey God, and not be submissive, but you cannot be submissive with obedience.

 **Obedience is an act, but submission is the motive of the heart.**

Timothy was:

- a man of good reputation
- a disciple
- an overcomer of personal issues
- teachable
- faithful
- an example

Every circumstance, especially the really difficult ones, are opportunities to be trained. God is equipping you through circumstances in your life, so see the challenges and difficulties as stepping stones to a deeper walk with God. Use them as an invitation to abide with Him and pursue His heart. Let Him mature and establish you in Him by pruning and bringing necessary changes so that you will be prepared to fulfill the call He has on your life, and the purpose for which you were born into this moment in history. There are souls attached to your obedience, your surrender, and your destiny; but He can only choose us if we are living according to His will, His way, and for His pleasure.