

SESSION 2 **Consider Your Call to be Disciples**

INTRO ... Overcoming the Tyranny of Failing

How Are You Doing When You FAIL at Being a Disciple? Have You Pondered Your Failings Lately?

- **How Did You Do this Past Year in Your Personal Discipleship?**
 - In Overcoming Sin patterns
 - In Personal Spiritual Disciplines
 - In Putting the Kingdom Interest above Temporary Pleasure
- **What about in Leading Your Family?** Is your wife better off spiritually? Have you provided leadership to your wife and children as the Bible calls for us to do?

THE CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP – How Does One BECOME a Disciple?

“ Now what qualifications does God have? What does God require of those who serve Him? Of those who are called to be His disciples... I know you're probably like I am, you get discouraged about your own failures... I often question how God can use me and why God doesn't use somebody else and is He through using me, and whenever I get into that thing of questioning whether God can use me I just go back to the Bible to see the people He used there. Because frankly, they're a fairly pitiable lot themselves. ...I mean, there was Noah who got drunk and conducted himself in a lewd way. ...There was Abraham who doubted God, lied about his wife and then committed adultery. ...And then there was Isaac who learned how to sin from his father, did the same thing with his wife Rebekah and lied to Abimelech. ... And then there was Jacob who literally extorted the birthright from Esau, deceived his father and who raised a whole bunch of immoral children. And there was Aaron. Aaron the high priest who led Israel in the worship of the golden calf and the accompanying orgy. ... And then there was Solomon the world's leading polygamist. And it goes on like that. ...You see, you just follow the flow of history and it's the march of the unqualified, is what it is. They're unqualified. And when you look at the twelve, you know what? You just meet a group of unqualified folks like all the rest.” **John MacArthur**, “The Master's Men Series- Phillip & Bartholomew”

“ A basic feature of NT discipleship is that it begins with a call in which Jesus takes the initiative (Mark 1:17; Matt 4:19; Luke 9:49; John 1:43). This differs sharply from rabbinic practice, in which it is the student's duty to find a teacher. A further point is that Jesus calls those who seem to lack the necessary qualifications (Mark 2:13 ff.).” (from Theological Dictionary of the New Testament)

THE NATURE OF GOD CALLING MAN HAS ALWAYS BEEN ABOUT GOD'S PURPOSE RATHER THAN MAN'S MERIT

- **Adam & Eve**
- **Abraham**
- **Israel**

Deut 7:6-8 "For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. 7 It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, 8 but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery,

THE BASIS OF GOD'S CALLING DISCIPLES Rom 9:9-16

When ALL ARE UNQUALIFIED, God Choosing Anyone is a Matter of MERCY!

Consider You're Calling ...

1 Cor 1:26-31 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. 30 He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. 31 Therefore, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

"Consider" (Gk. - 'blepo') = to look to, direct the mind upon, consider, take heed, to contemplate

THE MERCY OF GOD AMIDST FAILING DISCIPLES

DAVID

- **The Call of David**
 - **The Covenant of God with David 2Sam 7**
 - **David's Resume of Failure**
 - David's Lust issue
 - David's Adultery, Murder, & Deceit 2Sam 11
 - David's Family Leadership
 - Amnon rapes Tamar Absalom murders Amnon
 - Absalom Attempts a Political Coup and authorizes men to kill his father
 - Adonijah attempts to steal the throne from his brother Solomon (behind his father's back)
- 1 Kings 1:5-7** Now Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, "I will be king." So he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen with fifty men to run before him. 6 His father had never crossed him at any time by asking, "Why have you done so?" And he was also a very handsome man, and he was born after Absalom.
- “ his father had not displeased him, by crossing him in his humours, denying him

any thing he had a mind to, or by calling him to an account as to what he had done and where he had been, or by keeping him to his book or his business, or reproving him for what he saw or heard of that he did amiss; he never said to him, Why hast thou done so?" (from Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible)

"David, the all time ladies man. Everytime he saw a lady he liked he married her. Didn't matter how many others he had. An adulterer, a murderer, a lousy father and a man with such bloody hands God wouldn't even let him build a temple." **John MacArthur**, "The Master's Men Series - Phillip and Bartholomew"

Why is God FAITHFUL to this Failure?

- (1) Because of His Love
- (2) Because of His Mercy

.... David is the Recipient of MERCY rather than JUDGEMENT!!

2 Sam 12:13 Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has taken away your sin; you shall not die.

.... No One Understood the Mercy of God in All of Scripture like DAVID Did:

Ps 25:6-7 Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. 7 Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

Ps 51:1-4 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

Ps 40

"From God he expected relief, and he was big with expectation, not doubting but it would come in due time. There is power enough in God to help the weakest, and grace enough in God to help the unworthiest, of all his people that trust in him. But he waited patiently, which intimates that the relief did not come quickly; yet he doubted not but it would come, and resolved to continue believing, and hoping, and praying, till it did come." (from Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible)

Ps 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

"God never leaves his true followers; providential mercies, gracious influences, and miraculous interferences, shall never be wanting when they are necessary." (from Adam Clarke's Commentary)

Lam 3:22-23 The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; 23 they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

But what if I "DON'T DESERVE" His mercy (haven't done enough) or I am "UNDESERVING" of His mercy (the presence of sin in my life)?

.... Then, Consider ('blepo') Your Calling and be careful that you don't move the emphasis from GOD'S GRACE to YOUR PERFORMANCE

Gal 3:1-6

TO THOSE WHO'VE GIVEN UP

“ True grace always produces vigilance rather than complacency; it always produces perseverance rather than indolence.” Jerry Bridges

– Complacency, inactivity, and lack of motivation & perseverance are the aroma of activity fueled by the flesh.

... The Only Way We Stay Down as Christians When We Fail is by Taking Our Eyes Off of the Grace of God and Focusing on Flesh!!

.... His Mercy is New Every Morning— the only way to have daily Discouragement then is to be MORE AWARE of MY FAILURES YESTERDAY than of HIS MERCY TODAY!!

“ Remembrance of past mercies is a great stimulus to present faith.” Jerry Bridges