

Year of Discovery

“True Qualifications”

Intro:

Youth Takeover is the best isn't it? Having all the students serving in different capacities, this is the future of the church!

Parenting Teenagers class

“We are in mid august which means school has started or is about to start for most students”

A few months ago Pastor Lance shared something from the pulpit that I thought was pretty profound. Before he started his message he shared a specific word from the Lord for this congregation. He encouraged us that we are the way we are for a reason and we need to know that we are qualified for way more things than we think we are. He encouraged us to start trusting the giftings that God has given us.

This word was so good because it reminded me of something...This word was for me

Illustration: Since the middle of 2020 I constantly was in personality conversations. Being led by people who taught us about personalities and every time I was discouraged, and Pastor Lance was our guest speaker for winter retreat and talked about this. I didn't want to be a melancholy.

There are so many different personality tests out there right now and you can access them so easily. For example myers briggs test or the enneagram. Usually when a conversation turns to personality types those who are involved get really into it because we tend to like to talk about ourselves. But I want to talk about a personality test that is one of the oldest.

The 4 temperaments

1. **Powerful Choleric- Rabbit**

Strengths: Determined, Independent, Optimistic, Practical, Decisive- this is the leader type personality

Weaknesses: Angry, Sarcastic, Domineering, Proud, Unemotional, cold

Core Need: Control

2. Popular Sanguine- Tiger

Strengths- Talkative, Outgoing, Enthusiastic, Friendly, Warm

Weaknesses- Unstable, Restless, Egocentric,, Undisciplined, Disorganized, Fearful

Core need: Fun

3. Peaceful Phlegmatic- Pooh

Strengths: Calm, Dependable, Easygoing, Efficient, Conservative

Weaknesses: Stingy, Indecisive, Spectator, Selfish, Unmotivated

Core need: Peace

4. Perfect Melancholy- Eeyore

Strengths: Gifted, Analytical, Sensitive, Perfectionist, Loyal

Weaknesses: Moody, Negative, Self-Centered, Unsociable, Impractical (The list I had, had negative on this list twice

Core Need: Perfection

If you are anything like me during this whole time you were thinking to yourself...man I wish I was a different personality

Sanguine wish people took them more seriously

Melancholies wish they were less negative

Phlegmatics wish they knew how to make decisions quicker

Cholerics wish...oh wait they think their perfect...but actually they wish people would feel comfortable talking with them.

I am a melancholy phlegmatic

But what if this is how we were supposed to be? What if God made us for a specific purpose. What would happen if we stopped wanting to be someone else and leaned into our giftings? What would our capacity be then?

The fill in the blank would be this....

Stop Disqualifying yourself

Comparison is the thief of all joy

The comparison trap compels us to turn inward, to focus on ourselves, what we lack, what caused our discontentment. God does ask us to look inward but not dwell there.

So often we start comparing ourselves to someone else or because we have a certain personality that means that we can't do a certain job because we don't have the right skill sets.

There are so many things that you are qualified for and yet we don't even notice cause we are too busy being our own worst enemies

I believe today God is asking you to believe in yourself and also believe in what He has put before us.

Body:

There are plenty of biblical characters that struggled with the same thing and we are going to look at a couple of them today.

Moses- Exodus 3 and 4
Gideon Judges 6 (and 7)
Let's start with Moses:

Now this guy had every reason to run the opposite direction of anything positive. He was born and then almost killed but then he was saved and was raised by his families "enemies." Knowing who his family was the whole time he kills an Egyptian and then flees to Midian so that he doesn't have to deal with anyone and stays there for a long time.

Moses sees a burning bush and thinks it's odd so goes over to it and it's God and he tells him he is standing on holy ground so take off your shoes. Then God proceeds to tell him that He has heard the cry of his people and so....

Read Exodus 3:10-11

Moses had every reason to disqualify himself. He was a murderer, couldn't speak

Moses is thinking "I'm not God how am I supposed to do this?!?"

Moses' thought about him not being able to do this is correct but BESIDES THE POINT.

V. 12

God's response to Moses is to "be with" him which means to lend encouragement and restore self confidence.

God had always promised he would deliver Israel (he said it to Jacob in Genesis 46)

Finally God is doing something about what is happening to his people and he is going to use Moses to do it, shouldn't he be jumping for joy? No he refuses 5 times. **What would you do if you were in the shoes of Moses? I think most of us would do the same thing.**

My dad forcing me to play drums. We sometimes get pushed to do something for our own good even if we don't want to.

Read 13-15

First he says “I can’t do this” now he says “no one else thinks I can do this”

Illustration: Are you ever too afraid of some else’s opinion of your capabilities so you just don’t do it?

Are we pleasing man or God? Galatians 1 “If I am trying to please man I wouldnt be a servant of God.”

Well Moses is doing the same thing

He asks the question that he knows the israelites are going to ask him. They aren’t going to trust Moses because he is a fugitive and grew up a egyptian.

His response is “I who I am” God’s self identification. (YAHWEH) is a way of saying, your question is dumb cause they know who I am. These words in hebrew create a lot of debate because they could mean slightly different things. It is from the root word “to be”

God is leaving no doubt in Moses’ mind who he is talking to and who is going to talk to the Israelites and Pharaoh.

1. God’s power is what allows us to carry out His will.

Read 4:1

Apparently saying God’s name might not be enough for Moses. He is super concerned that Israel will not listen to him or respect him.

He still isn’t getting it and so God uses signs to show the Israelites and even Moses the power that they are experiencing.

Read 4:10-14

We don’t know for sure if he had a speech issue, maybe he was being exaggerative or just simply didn’t want to do it.

God is reminding him who created him and who is in charge. And that he will be with his mouth. Moses’ objections don’t matter because God’s plan will be carried out in the way that He asked.

Moses has yet to learn that his circumstances are not the proper light in which to view his call.

2. Our calling has way more significance than our ability.

Simply on the fact of who is doing the calling.

And he eventually gets to the point where he gives up and says lord just send someone else. "I don't want to do it." **Illustration:** A child saying this to a parent, what do you do?

God gets angry but is yet still gracious and sends Moses help.

3. God doesn't call the equipped, he equips the called.

Before we move on I want to point out a couple things. Do you notice how patient God is with Moses (well until the final one)

Also God is ok with the questions that Moses is asking.

Now Gideon:

Talk about the context of judges. Sin slavery sorrow salvation.

At this point in the biblical history Israel has continued to not follow God and they were conquered by Midian.

Same midian as where Moses fled

Read Judges 6: 11-13

The Lord decided to use Gideon who was from a tribe that no one knew and he was the weakest in his family.

He was threshing (getting rid of the seed heads from grain) wheat in a winepress to hide from everyone else. Normally this is done in open air so that the wind could take all the extra scraps.

But he was so scared of the midianites he didn't want to be seen. A wine press is enclosed.

“Might man of valor,” other translations say “Might warrior.” Gideon is being called this because of things he is about to do.

Gideon argues with the angel of God saying there are so many reasons as to why God is in fact actually not with them. Why has all of this happened?

Illustration: Walking bentley and her not doing what I expect of her.

We put expectations on God that aren't accurate.

But God is saying hold up, I don't have to report to you. You ain't my boss.

Read 14-16

The strength Gideon possessed was the promise of the Lord's presence with him. Gideon could exchange his weakness for God's strength.

Gideon shares with God all the reasons why he shouldn't be doing this but God doesn't care because He will be with him. Notice how God is choosing someone who doesn't think they knowing everything, but some who is humble enough to understand their mis comings.

Midian will be as easy to strike as one man which could mean they will all fall at once (which actually does happen)

There is might in the consciousness of the Lord's commission; there is a greater might in the consciousness of divine companionship

4. Hang with God

After Gideon accepts his job he is still unsure and asks for 2 separate signs for God to prove that He is legit. First he cooked up some meat and then he made the fleece dry and then wet in different nights.

Gideon still needed some reassurance and yet God still used him.

There are other examples in the bible of characters disqualifying themselves. Saul, the first king of israel made the same claim that his tribe isn't big enough and that he is weak. He even ran and hid amongst the luggage to hide from his calling.

The woman at the well- Jesus talked to the samaritan women at the well even when he wasn't supposed to

Mary the mother of Jesus- She was confused of her calling because she was a virgin and young but when the angel appeared to her the first thing the angel said was "The Lord is with you."

Closing:

Stop disqualifying yourself and start saying Yes to what God has called you. Look what happened to Moses and Gideon when they said yes, even with their reservations.

2 Corinthians 12:9 "My grace is sufficient for you for my power is made perfect in your weakness."

"You don't have to prove a thing He's already approved of you."