

Getting Started

Have you ever looked down on someone, thinking God can't or won't use them for a special ministry? Have you ever thought that about yourself?

What insight, principle or observation from this Nick's message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening or troubling? Explain.

Digging Deeper

We often approach serving God from the perspective that we do not have adequate skills and abilities to make a difference. So...we do nothing. We even feel, sometimes, that our circumstances are too tough, or too hard and even too strange to be used. But this is not what we find in the Bible. God used any and everyone that were willing to be used.

Today, God uses ordinary people as He did in history. Moses was "slow of speech," Jonah was a chicken, David was a small boy with a rock, Rahab was a prostitute, the list is endless.

God uses real people with real lives and real problems to make a real difference in His kingdom. Not because of anything of themselves, but because of the awesome God within them! Just maybe, He could use you or me.

Read Psalm 147: 10-11.

From this passage, what does God find pleasure in? What does He think of man's abilities?

Read 1 Samuel 16: 7.

What does God look for in a servant? The "heart" is our attitude toward God, our willingness to submit to God. Why would God desire from us our willingness to submit over any other thing we could offer?

Read 1 Corinthians 12: 4-6, 11

What is the source of our abilities and gifts? Who should determine if they are adequate? Explain.

Why would God give different abilities and gifts to different people? What is accomplished (in an eternal perspective) when all members of a body are available and used?

Read Acts 16: 9-13.

How long did Paul wait before heading to Macedonia? He became available to the needs of the people as he perceived them. Do we do this?

How would you define "availability"?

Application

Being available to those God has placed in your life is saying to God, "you are first" and "I am willing to trust in you". Who in your family, circle of friends, or neighborhood do you need to be more available to?

Do you strive to be available to others as a reflection of who you are in Christ and what he did for you?

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