

CALLED TO BE CHOSEN **(Matthew 22:14)**

While this particular scripture is referring to salvation it is also appropriate to make another spiritual application that will help us understand God's will for all believers.

I Corinthians 12:1, 4-7, 18 Every believer is called into God's service. The problem is only a very few ever serve in the capacity they were called to perform in. Let's look at why only a few are chosen.

TESTING

Matthew 11:28-30 Every Christian is called to yoke up with Jesus Christ and carry the burden that He alone will give each one. We all have taken the free gift of salvation but not many take on His yoke.

Mark 10:17-22 All believers are called to a life of self denial and total loyalty and commitment to Jesus and His ways. Sadly, most Christians get over the joy and excitement of our "first love" quickly.

Acts 13:5, 13; 15:37-38; II Tim. 4:11 Between the time a new believer is first called to service and the time they are appointed to that service there is always a testing time. The more responsibility the call, the more testing there will be before the Lord appoints the service to the believer.

Judges 6:11-13 The story of Gideon is a prime example of being called. He was put through the ringer along with the 32,000 men who first responded to the call of God. By the time Gideon and all those men were subjected to the tests that God put them through there were only 300 left to answer the call and be appointed by God to do the task He wanted done.

Luke 24:33-34 Jesus could have numbered His converts in the thousands but after His earthly ministry and His passion there were only about 120 loyal followers with Him in the upper room.

Hebrews 11:24-27 Moses was called at a very young age and knew that he was the one that would bring Israel out of Egypt. However, what he didn't know was he would be tested for 40 years by God. We could review the life of Abraham, Joseph, Jeremiah, David and others to show God's call but also the tremendous testing they had to endure before God appointed them and chose them for service.

TYPES OF TESTING

Mark 4:14, 16-17 The hard way test - Jesus spoke of the sower and the seed that fell on stoney ground. He compared this to believers who hear the word and receive it but falter and stumble after a short while because of tough trials and tribulations that arise. They had been called but not chosen. When we become believers God expects our 'spirit' to not only be alive but to change our lives.

Mark 4:18-19; Luke 15:11-13 (The Prodigal Son) The easy way test - Jesus also spoke of the seed that fell among thorns and compared it with Christians when they get saved the cares, ease and riches and desires of the world deceives them into becoming unfruitful as a believer.

IMPORTANCE OF THE CALL

Philippians 3:14 First of all, the call is a "high calling." The call from God should take top precedence over any call from family, friends, work or hobbies. God always demands first place.

II Timothy 1:9 The call of God is also a "holy calling." Before one is chosen to be placed in their calling God will make certain they are not ashamed of Christ and will bare up under persecution.

Hebrews 3:1 Finally, God's call is a "heavenly call." Many believers miss the call because they look for fire works, an audible call, a miracle of sort. However, God's call comes many times as a still small voice, a quiet prayer from a loved one, or a bible monotone message from a Sunday school teacher. Jesus often says "they who have ears to hear let them hear."