

# ZEROES BECOME HEROES

(THE LITTLE PEOPLE - The Apostles - Acts 4:13, Lad with the loafs and fish - John 6:9, Tertius - Rom. 16:22)

## *1 Cor. 1:26-29*

### I. THE POSITIONS THAT GOD DOES NOT REQUIRE!

- A. God Does Not Use Those Who Have **P**roficiency. (v. 26)
  - 1. First, we are simply called through the gospel. 2 Thess. 2:14
  - 2. God is speaking of those that are an intellectual genius.
  - 3. Believers ought to read the Word of God, study the Word of God, and continually grow in knowledge and wisdom. Ignorance is not a commendation, but at the same time, wisdom after the flesh is not a qualification. (Acts 17:30)
  - 4. “**Not many wise**” (sophos), Greek philosophers and orators.
- B. God Does Not Use Those Who Have **P**restige. (v. 26)
  - 1. “**Not many mighty**” (dunatos), able, powerful, mighty, strong - mighty in wealth and influence.
  - 2. Again, God is not saying that He can not use those of prestige, but that it is not a qualification for being used.
  - 3. There are examples of these in the church. Crispus and Sosthenes, rulers of the synagogue there Gaius, a rich, hospitable man; and Erastus the chancellor of the city of Corinth.
- C. God Does Not Use Those Who Have A **P**edigree. (v. 26)
  - 1. “**Not many noble**” (eugenes- yoog-en'-ace). The word "noble" means "well-born." It refers to those of nobility and pedigree by birth.

### II. THE PEOPLE THAT GOD DOES NOT REJECT!

- A. God Uses The **F**oolish Ones. (v.27)
  - 1. We get our word "moron" from the word "foolish" (mōros). Simpleton.
  - 2. The expression here refers to those who were destitute of learning, rank, wealth, and power, and who were esteemed as fools, and were despised by the rich and great. (1 Cor. 4:9-13)
  - 3. “**That**” (ASV) shows purpose. God deliberately shames the wise of the world to humble them.
- B. God Uses The **F**eeble Ones. (v. 27)
  - 1. The weak of every kind, bodily, mentally, and politically.
  - 2. James 2:5 ...did not God choose the poor of this world *to be* rich in faith...
  - 3. Someone has said, "It doesn't take much of a man to be used of God. It just takes all of him."
  - 4. To “**shame**” the great, the noble, and the learned.
- C. God Uses The **F**amiliar Ones. (v. 28)
  - 1. The word “**base**” is the opposite of “**noble**” in verse 26.
  - 2. “**Base**” (agenes - ag-en-ace') means ignoble, coward, mean, base, of no family, that is: low born - without kin. “Those who are sprung from no one in particular.”
  - 3. Abraham Lincoln once said, "God must love the common people, because He made so many of them."
- D. God Uses The **F**orsaken Ones. (v. 28)
  - 1. The word "despised" speaks of that which is "contemptible, least esteemed, and set at naught." It speaks of those that are treated with contempt and scorn.
  - 2. The people that God is speaking of is those who others say will never amount to anything. It

describes those who are looked down on others and written off as no account.

3. Maybe you have been told that you would never amount to anything. Maybe you have grown up feeling that you were worthless. I have good news for you. God can use you.

E. God Uses The **F**orgotten Ones.

1. “Things that are not” are people that are not. Jews thought they were the only “persons of true nobility.”
2. The Jews considered the Gentile as being in fact **NO** people or “things that are not.”. See 1 Pet. 2:10... Not a people...
3. The ones that are not refers to those who are completely overlooked. They are not only not listed in Who's Who, but they are not even listed in Who's Not. (Matt. 10:30)
4. Now you may be someone who is never recognized, never mentioned, and never heard of, but God can use you. (Ecc. 9:5)
5. You may not be qualified by this world's standards, but God can use you. He can take a nobody and make them a somebody. He can take a zero and make a hero. You can be used of God!
6. We laugh at things foolish; we score or pity the weak; we despise things base and common; and utterly disregard things as nothing. When we come to “the things that are not,” we have come to the lowest step. Beyond this the mind cannot go.
7. **“That”** shows purpose again. “To render idle” or “inoperative” those who have a high estimate on themselves and despise others.

### III. THE PRIDE GOD DOES NOT RESPECT!

A. There Is No **R**eason For Our **P**ride. (v. 29)

1. It's not the vessel, it is the treasure inside. 2 Cor. 4:7 “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves.”

B. There Is No **R**efrain To Our **P**raise.

1. Psa 8:4-9 “What is man that You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him? ...O LORD, our Lord, How majestic is Your name in all the earth!”