

“Prepared to be used by God”

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Acts 8.26-40

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Westby UMC

Today I have a very important question for you and I want you to answer it by raising your hand. How many of you would like to be used by God? Listen carefully to my question, how many here would like to be used by God?

What do we need to do to be able to be used by Christ? To find out what the Word of God tells us about it, let's see what the book of Acts tells us.

The main character of the text we are considering today is Philip, better known in the Scriptures as the evangelist. Philip had been one of the 7 men who had been chosen by the church in Jerusalem to be deacons according to Acts 6. We know that after the death of Stephen the church was scattered from that city; Luke tells us that Philip, who had also been dispersed, began to preach the good news of salvation in the city of Samaria. It is in the life of this man that we can find some biblical principles that will help us be prepared to serve the Lord effectively.

I. We need spiritual preparation. Acts 8.26 and 6.3

The first thing we need to be used by God is to be spiritually prepared. Philip was a man who desperately sought God, his life spoke of this to such a degree that when it was necessary to choose 7 men to serve the tables, Philip was one of them, because the brothers saw his testimony, besides that he was full of Holy and wise spirit. All these qualities are the result of someone who is desperately seeking God, it can be seen with the naked eye that Philip was a man who dedicated time to his spiritual life.

This search for God also led him to feel empathy and mercy for those who had not yet been reached by God's graces. In addition, Philip had a very sensitive spiritual ear, because when the angel of Jehovah spoke to him, he instantly realized that it was God himself who was speaking to him. A life that is spiritually prepared knows how to recognize the voice of God and that of the enemy.

II. We need to be prepared to obey whatever the price. Acts. 8.26 b-33

We note that, secondly, in order to be used by God, we need to be prepared to obey whatever the cost. Many of us have a desire to be used by God, but when we are told the price to pay, our enthusiasm plummets. However, this was not what happened with Philip, he was asked to go from Samaria to the south along the road that leads from Jerusalem to Gaza, this was a long, tiring journey, in the desert, do you understand what I mean? that for Felipe? But he was willing to pay the price, he was obedient. In addition, we notice that Philip did not care who he was going to serve, this man whom the Spirit told him to approach was a rich man, who traveled in a car, had a scroll of Isaiah, something that not many could have, He was also educated, but this did not make Felipe obey, he could be rejected, or even beaten by the servants of that man, but with all this this faithful servant of God obeyed, he paid the price.

Now we can understand that in order to be used by God we must also be willing to pay the price, brothers God wants to use us, but we must be obedient to his voice.

III. We need to be prepared with knowledge of God's Word. Acts 8.34-40

Lastly, to be used by God, we must be prepared with a knowledge of God's Word. Felipe used the opportunity that was presented to him and by having knowledge of the Old Testament he began to present the plan of salvation to him, leading him to what the gospel is. Philip knew the Scriptures, both the AT, and the teachings of Christ, the gospel of salvation.

Until we give ourselves to the task of knowing more about the Word of God, we cannot be used.

Once upon a time, there lived a king who loved animals very much. Such was the devotion of that man that his palace was always full of lions, rabbits, cats and elephants.

One fine day, the king received a wonderful gift: two newborn eagles. Joy was immediate, and the king was so excited that he immediately called one of his subjects.

– I want you to take care of these two beautiful birds and raise them until they grow up and become strong. When they can fly, I will always carry them with me and give them lots of love.

Quickly, the subject took the eagles and for a long time he took care of them and fed them until they grew and became huge and strong. However, one morning the subject appeared before the court and, very distressed, knelt at the king's feet asking for mercy.

– Your Majesty, what I have to tell you is not easy. You have seen how the eagles have grown, and for years I have done nothing but feed and care for them. However, now that they are grown, I have seen that the poor ones... They cannot fly! They just spend all day perched on the branches of a tree.

The king could not believe that and suddenly he began to cry inconsolably. One fine day, a humble old man arrived at the palace who asked to speak immediately with the king. When taking him before the throne, the old man knelt at the feet of the monarch, but he barely paid attention to him, because his sadness occupied all his thoughts.

– Your Majesty, I come from a distant land and the terrible news has reached my ears that their eagles cannot fly. If you allow me, I can help you.

– I'll pay you a hundred gold coins if you succeed! – The king cried desperately when he saw that at least there was hope.

– Don't worry, we'll see each other early in the morning.

And without saying another word, the mysterious old man withdrew from the palace. The next morning, the king woke up as usual by leaning out of his bedroom window. But, to his surprise, he could see in the distance two birds that were flying at full speed. They were his dear eagles!

Shaken with emotion, the monarch quickly went down the stairs to contemplate that wonderful event, and upon reaching the throne he met the old man again while the eagles fluttered through the interior of the castle.

– What a joy! How excited I am - exclaimed the king raising his arms towards his birds. -
How did you do it, noble old man? You have to tell me!

- Well, very easy, my lord. I have simply cut the branches of the trees so that the eagles
have no choice but to fly.

At that moment, the king understood that his eagles had no problem, they were simply
afraid to spread their wings and take flight.

Brothers, what will be the branch that is preventing you from serving God effectively?
Lack of spirituality? Lack of obedience? Or lack of knowledge of the Word?

You know God wants to use you for his glory, today I invite you to ask God first for
forgiveness if we have not been prepared to be used by Him, I also invite you to commit
yourself to the Lord that with his help you will do what It is within his reach to better
prepare himself to be able to serve him as he deserves.