



South Hill Church of Christ

1136 South Hill Avenue

PO Box 3425

Fayetteville, Arkansas 72702-3425

Voice & Fax: 479-521-6809

Lsgage129@cs.com

Web: www.southhillcoc.org

February 23, 2012

Why God Uses the Humble

“For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in his presence...that, as it is written, ‘He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.’” 1 Corinthians 1:26-29, 31

I have a book in my library entitled **Best Sermon Pictures**. It was published by Moody Press but there is no publication date in the book. I inherited it from my father and it looks like it was probably published in the 1940's or 1950's. This story is told under the heading of Humility:

“I am by birth,” said a converted Hindu, when addressing a number of his countrymen, “of an insignificant and contemptible caste, so low that if a Brahman should chance to touch me he must go and bathe in the Ganges for the purpose of purification; and yet God has been pleased to call me, not merely to a knowledge of the gospel, but to the high office of teaching it to others. My friends, do you know the reason of God's conduct? It is this: If God had selected one of you learned Brahmans, and made you the preacher, when you were successful in making converts, bystanders would have said it was the amazing learning of the Brahman and his great weight of character that were the cause; but now, when any one is convinced by my instrumentality, no one thinks of ascribing any praise to me; and God, as is His due, has all the glory.”

And when the most highly educated are equally ready to give God all the glory, He can use them, too, as He did the lowly Hindu.

Ronald Regan is credited with saying, “It is amazing how much you can accomplish when you don't care who gets the credit.” Regan may have been quoting someone else when he said that but regardless of who first made the statement the truth of it is not diminished. Humility is one of the lessons that Jesus constantly taught, and on the night of his betrayal he especially tried to help his disciples understand the wisdom of lowly service (John 13).

When Samuel went to the house of Jesse to anoint David as the new king, the first son of Jesse that he saw was Eliab, the eldest. Samuel said, “Surely the Lord's anointed is before him.” But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart” (1 Samuel 16:6-7). In this age of spin doctors and those who use the media to create an image, we need to be reminded that pounds of credentials and tons of endorsements are not worth one ounce of good character. One humble man in the hand is worth two proud men in the bush.

“But he gives more grace. Therefore He says: ‘God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’” James 4:6