

30th anniversary: Bringing back memories of pioneering. Made me ponder the miracle of being used by God. Our scrip: A record of early disciples; We see some qualities that need to be in a man who God uses.

I. THE BASIS OF USEFULNESS

A. Scrip. is a record of Jesus Disciples: Where they came from *What kind of man does God use for His purposes?*

1. God can use a man who is spiritually hungry

a. *John 1:38* Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, "What do you seek?" They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), "where are You staying?"

1. Not chitchat: They were disciples who wanted to learn more from Jesus

b. God can only use men who want to learn

1. *John 1:39* He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour).

a. Relationship with Jesus/time spent with Jesus: For us – prayer & the word of God

c. A disciple can only learn if they ask questions: Much of the teaching Jesus did was a response to Q

2. God can use a man who is fruitful

a. *John 1:41-42* ⁴¹ He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ). ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus.

1. This is validity: Evidence of God at work inside of you

2. This is where you learn to battle through resistance in fruitfulness

3. This is the indispensable skill in pioneering: *How will people come? If you win them*

II. WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO GOD

A. Our scripture is recorded/an eternal record

1. God is showing us what is important to Him!

a. Fruitfulness is important to God: Cultivate it!

1. God wants other people to know that Andrew brought his brother to Jesus!

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1. Preach about it 2. Talk about it 3. Celebrate it: Rejoice over fruitfulness stories

b. Spiritual hunger is important to God: Create an atmosphere for it

1. JN: Anyone can ask you anything – youngest converts ask you questions from the Bible

a. Never give the message that people are a bother b. Encourage people to think & ask questions

1. Help them to find the truth in God's word for themselves

III. THE POTENTIAL FACTOR

A. Our scrip shows us the potential factor

1. You never know what someone you reach/impact for God will become

a. *John 1:42* And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone).

1. A stone: Stability – foundation...great things are going to rest on you/come from you

2. Someone we reach might make great impact for God

a. Peter preached – saw thousands saved: Andrew had a part in that

1. One of our converts could become a great preacher/pioneer/missionary

3. They might open a door to entire schools/families/ethnic groups

a. Peter opened the door to the Gentiles

4. They might actually achieve more than we do

a. And yet we will have a part in that

1. *1 Corinthians 3:6* I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.