

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions Meet the Amazing Jesus Series

Lesson 41

Lesson Title: Be Chosen to Make a Difference
Take Home Point: Jesus chooses us to make a difference for him.

Warm-Up:

As part of my job, I am frequently required to select current or potential employees to work as part of a team. Over the years I have become confident that most people can be taught the background and mechanics of a position in order to get the job done. But what I don't think can be taught is the ability to work as a team. When I look for team members, I want people who believe the task can be done but they can't do it alone. I have participated on teams that had several "superstars," and their ego inevitably got in the way of working together. So now when I interview people, I key in on evidence of qualities that I believe demonstrate a good team member – sharing credit for past successes, a willingness to follow another, the ability to listen, and a recognition that one person doesn't have all the answers. I seek humble people who are confident their team can do anything together and will work hard to make it happen.

Read: Luke 6:12-16

Observation (What happened?):

What did Jesus do the entire night prior to calling his disciples?

According to Luke 15:16, why does God choose people?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What is the difference between a disciple and apostle?

What is fruit that will last?

Insight:

Moses, Jonah, King Saul, Isaiah, Mary, the twelve disciples, Paul – none of these people in the Bible chose to do God's work on their own. In fact, several of them were either reluctant to do so or actually rebellious. God didn't choose them because they chose him or because they were special. He chose them because he had a special task for them to do. And every single time, God went ahead of each of these people preparing both the situations and the people to whom they were sent. That is the most wonderful thing about God selecting you and me to do his work – it actually means God goes before us to guide us and help us. And who is blessed? Not only those to whom we are sent, but you and I, too, receive the blessing of God's favor for being obedient! (You can read about the calling of the people listed above in Exodus 3; Jonah 1; 1 Samuel 10; Isaiah 6; Luke 1; Matthew 4; John 1; and Acts 9. It's fascinating reading!)

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What are you doing this week to serve others and make an eternal difference?

Pray for the children in your small group to be secure in knowing God chose them.

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