

## **Introduction**

- People are creatures of habit, unwilling to change as long as they’re comfortable.
- When things are not so comfortable anymore, they look for answers.
- Perhaps a personal or national calamity.
- People will to start to cling to secure things:
  - Maybe God, but on their own terms.
- Altar calls on Sunday morning TV.
- People come out thinking that they’ve “made it”.
- Ancient Israel, and even many Jews today, believe they’re set apart as God’s Chosen People.
- Are these people “called by God”?
- And if they are, are they “special”?

## **What’s the Process?**

- Many believe that they can wait until things get tough, and then call on God as their “ace in the whole”. But is that true? **John 6:44-45**.
- Jesus taught in parables to draw in those “called”, not the masses in general: **Matthew 13:10-16**.
- If God were trying to win a battle with Satan at this time for the “souls” of men, you would have to admit that He’s losing!
- God has initiated the process of your calling. Is

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there more to it?

### Examples from the Past

- Bible is full of example of those who were called by God for specific purposes.
- Sometimes dealt with them in ways that we today would consider harsh, but they were done to teach latter generations (applies to Israel in the wilderness, but is applicable to other scenarios):  
**I Corinthians 10:11-12.**
- Noah:
  - He obeyed God and built an ark in the span of 120 years: **Genesis 6:1-3, 5-8.**
  - Noah wasn't perfect: **Genesis 9:20-21.**
- Moses and Aaron:
  - Moses obeyed God (for the most part): **Exodus 3:10-12.**
  - Not following God specially got him in trouble: **Numbers 20:7-12.**
  - Aaron was the 1<sup>st</sup> human High Priest, but he wasn't perfect either: **Exodus 32:1-4.**
- Ruth and Rahab:
  - Two seeming insignificant women who were called by and used by God.
  - Ruth stayed with Naomi when she left Moab: **Ruth 1:8-16.**
  - Rahab's faith saved her: **Hebrews 11:30-31.**
  - Both Ruth and Rahab in lineage of David:

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### Matthew 1:5-6.

- Others had specific calling (Sons of Kohath):
  - Lineage of Levi: **Numbers 3:17**.
  - They were to carry the Most Holy Things of the tabernacle after they were wrapped up for transport: **Numbers 4:4, 15, 17-20**.
  - God is serious about how things were handled: **II Samuel 6:3, 6-7, 11-13**.
  - Remember what happened to the Aaron's son's Nadab and Abihu (unauthorized burning of incense): **Leviticus 10:1-3**.
- Eldad and Medad:
  - They continued to prophesy after the others in the 70 stopped: **Numbers 11:24-29**.
- Kings of Israel:
  - Saul:
    - Timid at first.
    - Became more and more presumptuous.
    - Unauthorized sacrificing waiting for Samuel to show up (after 7 days) before a battle with the Philistines. Samuel called it foolish.
    - Flat out lied about wiping out the Amalekites. God left him after that.
  - David:
    - Timid at first.
    - Made his share of mistakes (e.g. – Bathsheba).

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- Repented of his sins.
- A man after God’s own heart.
- Solomon:
  - Sought wisdom.
  - His many wives influenced his thinking as he got old.
- Jeroboam:
  - God called him out to split from Rehoboam and be 1<sup>st</sup> king of the northern kingdom.
  - Make up rules to cover his skin: **I Kings 12:26-30.**
  - I got worse from there.
- Apostle Paul:
  - He was a “Pharisee of the Pharisees”.
  - Wrote much of the NT.

## Who is God Calling?

- God calls those He can work with: **Isaiah 66:2, Matthew 18:1-4.**
- Those God calls may not be so obvious: **I Corinthians 1:25-31.**

## What Should You Expect?

- It’s not a bed of roses pedals; more like thorny rose stems.
- Hardships will come, and should be expected: **I Peter 4:12-13.**

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- Many of those called will not pass the test (to be chosen): **Matthew 7:13-14**.
- God has a purpose for those He calls: **Romans 12:4-8**.

### The Ultimate Goal is to be Chosen

- Parable of the Sower: **Mark 4:3-20**.
- Many are being called in this example, but only a few pass the test.
- Many are called, few are chosen: **Matthew 22:14**.

### Conclusion

- The entire world is not being called right now: **Matthew 13:10-17**.
- More than our calling, we pray that we are **chosen in the end!** Even fewer than are called will be chosen.
- Those who are being called now should look at it as a privilege, not a deserved right. Grace is a gift of God.
- We need to keep that honor in mind as we remain humble in our calling: **Romans 12:3**.
- God calls people for His purpose, not the other way around: **II Timothy 1:8-9**.
- If chosen, we will become His kings and priests.
- Honor your calling; strive and pray for your being chosen; in the 1<sup>st</sup> resurrection!