

For Such a Time as This

2 Timothy 3:1...This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

We are living in the last days and God has placed each of us in the body of Christ as He sees fit. The Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, the eye cannot say unto the hand I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you...1 Corinthians 12:21.

Every member is unique and necessary. We do not all have the same function or ability but that's the way God made it. God has instilled within us all we need to be successful. I use to wish I was born in an earlier era, but God in his infinite wisdom has decreed it that I am a part of the generation upon whom the end of the world has fallen.

Just recently, this country of ours has taken some monumental steps in rebellion to God by passing laws allowing the creation of saviour siblings, human/animal hybrids, negating the role of fathers and maintaining the status quo on the abortion limit despite medical advancement which means that the unborn child now has a much better chance of survival.

We can throw up our hands and feel that we are fighting a losing battle or we can accept the challenges that are facing us as God's church. 1 Chronicles chapter 12 gives us an account of David's army. Some were valliant, others were experts in warfare etc. but in verse 32 we read:

And the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel aught to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment.

This is one of our greatest needs today...men and women of understanding who knows what the church aught to do. If we look at the life of David, we see that God was working in his life long before he faced Goliath. The bible tells us that he kept his father's sheep. He was the youngest of eight sons. In those days inheritance was given according to the order of birth. He was the last in line. He could have carried out his duties carelessly because he was not going to receive much of an inheritance. But he guarded his father's sheep with his life.

And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by the beard, and smote him, and slew him. Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God... 1 Samuel 17:34 -36

Suddenly here comes Goliath threatening God's people. David had been in training for such a time as this although he did not know it. Sometimes we go through situations not realising that God is training us for times to come. David's father sent him to look for his brothers not knowing that it was all in God's plan.

1 Samuel 17:28,29...And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, why camest thou down hither? And with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle. And David said, what have I now done? Is there not a cause?

God used this lad that trusted him to deliver Israel when all the great men were cowering with fear.

In the book of Acts 11:19 – 26 when God started to work among the gentiles, Barnabas recognised that there was a need for someone with the necessary qualities to minister to the gentiles and he sent for Saul of Tarsus. Unlike Peter who was somewhat prejudiced against the gentiles Saul was more broad-minded and was able to minister to the gentiles without discrimination. The church they established in Antioch was to become a special church and the base for many missionary endeavours and the members exemplified their Lord to the extent that, they were called Christians first in Antioch.

Someone once wrote that nothing is more powerful than an idea whose time has come. Sometimes we feel we are ready to be used by God but we need to wait upon Him. Psalms 75: 6, 7...For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another. The best followers make the best leaders. Joshua followed Moses and was obedient to him until God moved Moses out of the way and brought Joshua to the fore. Elisha was water boy to Elijah until he was taken up to heaven then he became the prophet in Israel. Some people find it difficult to follow others; they must always be the leader. God brings people to the fore who are prepared and ready. Serve Him where He places you until He is ready for you. Sometimes God places you in some harsh environment but is able to sustain you, like the cactus, which is able to survive in the desert. Instead of complaining about your lot thank God that he has confidence in you and is training you for some task that is ahead of you.

Other times God places us in privileged positions but we must use it for His glory. When Esther became Queen Mordecai told her not to feel too comfortable in the palace. Esther 4:13,14...Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews. For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?

Submitted by Philip C. Bennett