

God's Call-That No  
Flesh Should Glory

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

## **MEMORY VERSE**

1 CORINTHIANS 1:27

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...

## **WHAT YOU WILL NEED:**

A heavy leather gardening glove and a thorny rose branch.

A rope or a very strong cord (about nine feet), and two brooms.

A piece of paper.

## **ATTENTION GETTER!**

### **My Hand Glories in Its Glove**

You will need a heavy leather gardening glove and a thorny rose branch.

Keeping the glove hidden, ask your class if anyone is brave enough to pick up the branch and give it a good hard squeeze (of course if any say they'll try, don't let them). Then bring out the glove and ask if anyone would like to try the same task with this added protection.

When the task has been accomplished ask the class what glory was in the task for the hand. The answer of course is none; the glove gets all the credit for allowing the hand to work and for protecting the hand in the midst of the project. This is what it means when we put on Jesus Christ. He receives the glory, not us!

## LESSON TIME!

Let's say you see a pretty girl or handsome boy riding in an expensive sports car. They might wear fancy clothes. Maybe their parents have a lot of money, a fancy job, a big house, or power in politics. Maybe they even hire servants to serve their family. It might seem that they have everything going for them. But do they really? Many very wealthy people are very unhappy, but why do you suppose that is?

We have a tendency to look at how things look, don't we? We will often look at whether or not a person has money, or looks good, or maybe has an important place in life. But even though the world may place great importance on these things, the truth is that none of these things will last. If these things are the most important things in our lives then our lives will be very empty. Without God, it just won't be enough!

The people of Corinth also looked at wealth, education, and power as being very important. They had been idol worshipers and sinners, following the ways of their world before they came to Jesus. Paul began here in chapter one of 1 Corinthians to teach them what is really important in the eyes of God. Let's look at what is REALLY important in life. **Only what is done for Christ will last.**

### 1 CORINTHIANS 1:26

**For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.**

Remember how you were before you became a Christian? Did you have a lot to brag about? Were you educated, powerful, or part of a royal family? It is interesting to see who the people are who usually accept Jesus. Many times those who are wise according to the flesh, or the ways of this world, or those who have everything they could possibly want or need in this life think they don't need Jesus.

When they hear the gospel they trust so much in what they have and feel that they think they don't need a savior. Other people who realize that they are in need of a savior are the ones who come to Him. Those who are humble and willing to give their lives over to Jesus.

Is it that Jesus doesn't love these people who "seem" to have it together? When Jesus was here teaching, He would often talk about how difficult it was for those to come to Him who don't think they need a physician. You usually won't go to a doctor if you think you don't need one. Many people think they don't need Jesus. But really they need Him very much. But their blindness often keeps them away. Because it's so important, people also need to look at eternity and not just the here and now. Just

because we have everything we need in this life does not mean that we are ready for eternity. **Only what is done for Christ will last.**

### **1 CORINTHIANS 1:27**

**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...**

God's standards are not the same as the world's. He chose the things that people of the world would think are foolish and weak such as faith, trust, obeying the Bible, and prayer. No matter how smart or strong we think we are, it is not enough. God and His ways are superior. **Only what is done for Christ will last.**

Isn't it interesting that many people think that Christians are strange? They often aren't the most important people in life. They are just regular people who respond to the gospel. Paul is saying that God likes to use regular people to put to shame those people who are often full of themselves and think that they have everything figured out.

God doesn't need the help of anyone to run His kingdom. He can do a great job all by Himself. He does allow us to be used in His plans and purposes, but He doesn't need us. When we let Him work through our lives then He receives all of the glory.

## **Tug of War**

You will need a rope or a very strong cord (about nine feet), and two brooms.

Tie the rope to one broom handle. Keeping the handles about twenty inches apart, wrap (don't tie) the rope around the broom handles together three times. Have two children hold the brooms apart while one tries to get them together by pulling the loose end of the rope. The one will win every time.

Explain that it wouldn't seem likely that one person would be able to beat two, but God uses the foolish things of the world to confound the wise.

### **1 CORINTHIANS 1:28**

**...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...**

God always uses very common things to bring Him glory. A good example of this is the birth of Jesus. Think about it! He chose Mary, a very simple maiden. She didn't have a lot of power, money or influence. She was just a regular girl who was willing to serve God. Then, when Jesus was born, He was born into very common surroundings. There was no room for Him at the inn, but He came and filled a very simple scene with the very glory of God.

Some things that the world would look at as not very impressive are the very things that God uses the most. Maybe we look at our own lives and wonder how God can use us. Maybe we feel like we are not very impressive. But that is OK because God will give us the strength that we need to do what He has chosen us to do.

Also, He chose the things that cannot be seen such as love, hope, peace and patience--things that the world can't understand to accomplish His purposes. It is these "unseen" things which bring to nothing the things that are seen in this world. **Only what is done for Christ will last.**

### 1 CORINTHIANS 1:29

...that no flesh should glory in His presence.

## **Brawny Boaster**

You will need a piece of paper.

Ask for the strongest person in class to volunteer for a demonstration. Have him hold his hands out in front of him with arms very straight, then place the paper on his hands. Allow the paper to sit there. Take your time explaining to the class about how God chooses the weak things of the world and why He does it. Every now and then ask how your brawny volunteer is doing. Eventually, he'll tire out and quit.

Explain that God uses the weak things of the world to prove His strength. When we are at the end of ourselves, He supernaturally helps us do anything we accomplish.

In our own power, we can do nothing for God. In God's power we can do all things. But we need to give the glory to God. This verse says, "no flesh will glory." It is important that God receives all of the glory for everything in our lives. Isn't it great though that He is willing to use each one of us? **Only what is done for Christ will last.**

## 1 CORINTHIANS 1:30

**But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God--and righteousness and sanctification and redemption...**

God's call, that no flesh should glory, is in Jesus Christ. He has become for us, the wisdom of God. If we have asked Him into our heart as Savior and Lord, He has become our righteousness, made us holy, and saved us forever. We need to put our trust in what is real--Jesus. **Only what is done for Christ will last.**

Think about what the world says is wisdom. The world tells us to be self-sufficient, to fulfill all of our potential, that we can do whatever we set our minds to, we are the masters of our destiny. The only problem is that our hearts are evil and when left to ourselves we only lead ourselves to destruction.

This is where the wisdom of God comes in. God says, "Allow Me to provide for you everything you need. I will give you my Son as a willing sacrifice so that when you believe on Him your life can be changed forever." God Himself came in the form of a man, Jesus Christ and provided for us what we could never provide for ourselves. That is the wisdom of God.

## 1 CORINTHIANS 1:31

**...that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the Lord."**

When we glory in anything we accomplish, it should only be in giving glory to the Lord for what He is doing in our lives. We can have a lot to glory in as Christians, but it is never what we have done, but what Jesus has done in us. Everything in this world will pass away. We need to remember what is important in life. Only those things that are eternal should be important to us.

We look at appearance, riches, and power, but God looks at the heart and what we are inside. This world and all it offers will pass away, but God's love within us will never die. It is eternal. We have only one life and it soon will pass. **Only what is done for Christ will last.**

## PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to live for Jesus. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.