

ing the call to service. I only thought of my abilities, my limits and not about what God could do if I accepted his call and submitted to his authority. I also feel a sense of loss at not being part of the official ceremony. My humility, false humility, prevented me from honoring God completely and sharing that honor with all those who were present.

Thankfully God does not depend on us for his choices. He knows us for who we are and he knows the abilities he has given to each of us. Today day God chose to forgive my foolishness and bless me with his Spirit and his power. Today day God overlooked by failure to obey and showed me what was possible when one submits to his authority. Today day God took me into his arms and wrapped me in his love and presence. I now know that I have nothing to fear and can adequately serve because God is with me no matter where I am. I, Medad, am a servant in the kingdom of God.

Week One – Read Exodus 4:13-14 and Jeremiah 1:6. These men tried to avoid God’s call on their lives. They made different excuses. Make a list of excuses you think people use to avoid obeying God’s call.

Week Two – Read 2 Chronicles 20:14-18. Try and write a description of Jahaziel. Why do you think God chose him to give a message to the king? What was the response of those who heard the message? Why did they listen to Jahaziel? Make a list of reasons people will listen to a preacher or teacher.

Week three – Read Jonah 1:3, 12; 4:1-3. What are some of the consequences when we disobey God’s call to service? Think in terms of the affect it will have on your life, the lives of those around you and on those God wants you to reach with his message. Make a list. Is there an area where you are unwilling to do what God is asking you to do? Why are you having a hard time obeying?

Week Four – Read Luke 10:27-37. Is anyone excluded from God’s call to serve in his kingdom? Is anyone exempt from sharing what God has given them with those who are in need? Is your opinion of your abilities of value to God? What excuses are you making and what will you did to correct the situation?

Ordinary Men



Studies in becoming a man of valor

Study 07
Medad

From the diary of Medad – Numbers 11:21-30

What a day it has been. Not like any I have ever had before. I am not sure quite how to interpret all that has happened. I feel like I am standing on the edge of a cliff and I will either fly or fall depending on what happens next. Let me explain

Moses has been really busy with the work of trying to teach us the word of God to keep us from doing something stupid and making God angry. It was just a few weeks ago that we decided to listen to the wrong group and not to Caleb and Joshua. They told us we could conquer Canaan but no we preferred to listen to the other guys. Well God got a little upset and told us to go back into the desert. Some didn't listen and tried to conquer a small city only to be defeated and get a lot of people killed.

Moses keeps trying to tell us what we should do but many refuse to listen. They grumble, they complain, they ignore what he teaches us and then we get in trouble. Then Moses has to spend time praying and talking with God so he will not destroy us. What a vicious circle. The good news is that more and more people are beginning to see the value of what Moses is trying to teach us, but there is just not enough time for him to teach, guide, judge and intercede for all of us.

So, yesterday brought big changes. The messengers began to circulate through the camp saying that God had decided it was time for others to help Moses with the work of teaching and leading. They said that a list of seventy men had been prepared; men selected by Moses and approved by God. We were to go and check the list and see if our name was there. If so, we were to be present at the morning sacrifice at the tabernacle.

I thought about the message for a few minutes but decided that it was unlikely that I was on the list. There were many others more qualified than me. Just because I am a leader in my clan and feel I am respected that didn't mean I would be on the list. Even if my name were on the list I am not sure I want that kind of responsibility. It would be a lot of work, more than I already have. I thought like many others think let someone else do it.

I heard from a neighbor that my name was on the list, but I didn't believe him. There are so many rumors in a camp this size. The only thing that you can be sure of is whether we are staying put or packing up and moving camp. That is because everyone can see the pillar of smoke or fire. If it rises and starts to move we pack and follow. If it stays in place we go about our daily routine. That was a sure thing; but my name on the list? No, the man had to be wrong.

Towards evening I overheard a group talking about the list and again I heard them mention my name. They were commenting about the different names,

who they knew and didn't know. Most of them had never heard my name before or knew who I was. So I concluded it must be another Medad from some other part of the camp; although there are not many people with my name. Again I wondered why would I be on the list? How would Moses even think of me? As far as I could remember we said more than the customary greeting to each other.

So this morning I chose to stay behind and not go to the tabernacle. I just had too much to do, and who was I to assume that I was the one they were talking about? So just in case it was me I began to formulate a list of reasons to defend my decision not to go. There are plenty of others to do the work. Besides I am not interested, nor do I feel comfortable in taking on such responsibilities. I am happy where I am, why take on the troubles of everyone else. Just let me do the work I have and that will be enough for me. Who am I to tell people what they should do? I am not a teacher or very gifted in speaking. God doesn't want me they must have been mistaken or talking about someone else and got the names mixed up.

So I went about my business. However, I could hear the large crowd that had gathered at the tabernacle. Many had gone to hear about Moses' new plan. I could hear the crowd respond as they listened to Moses words and then I heard a lot of shouting, celebrating and other commotion from the crowd near the tabernacle. What happened next is very hard to explain.

I sensed something, you know like how you feel when someone is watching you. They are there, you can hear, smell, feel their presence. This was like that but even more intense; a strong intense emotional moment. Think about how you feel when your group scores that last point and there is a rush of emotion and you begin shouting and cheering. The emotion takes control and you have to tell everyone you see about what has happened. That is how I felt.

Suddenly, I began to speak and teach and a crowd formed around me. (Numbers 11:26) I began to explain to the group the importance of the law and how to keep the law. I began to see key aspects of what Moses had been trying to teach us and started explaining them to the group. I began to explain why we had failed to listen to Caleb and Joshua and why God's decision to send us back into the desert was correct.

It was incredible. My mind has never been so clear, so aware of God and his words for us. My heart has never been so full of love for God and confidence in what he is trying to accomplish. My faith multiplied in that moment as I saw the truth in God's promises to us and the reality of what our future would be as we walk with him.

I am still astounded, dumfounded, humbled by the fact that God chose me to serve him in this way. I also feel a little guilty for having tried to avoid accept-