

Called to Belong

Power to overcome GIANTS

Power to make **Champions** out of the weak

Read of great man in hist – politicians – scientist – missionaries – Eric Liddell – great inspiration - but idea – God can only use such heroes - read Bible different

Hebrews 11:32-34
Gideon, Samson, David, Moses

34 ... whose **weakness** was turned to **strength**; and who became **powerful** in battle and routed armies.

God can use **average** bunch – weak – defects → superheroes

Some: **char** defects – **nat** limit: **age, edu, talents** – felt same as we do - can't do this that

The **place** of defeat can be the place of victory.

1. Be **honest** with our weakness

James 5:16

16 Admit your faults to one another and pray for each other so that you may be **HEALED**.

TLB
Healed – opposite is death – **Cook** – dangerous: project **image** – faultless and superhuman – CEO told everyone already knows

Humour – thks – always gain – ...

wrong – excel, if right – mirror – if can't do – team

Enc – fail – OK – hope; not just **failures** – your **process** to vict

Your openness to your struggles to success can be an **encouragement**

When people **fail** – one way to bring enc – **share** your past failures and how you overcome

Not always – failed still – OK – tempted to give up

Share **not just failures** but how you **ARE progressing** towards **vict** despite the failures

Jesus in **GDN** – didn't tell disciples – Oh no I don't think I can make it – tell it to Father only – just pray for me

Story was released after vict won
2. God can make **champions** out of nothing - **process**

1 Corinthians 1:26-29

26 Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.

1 Tim 5:22

22 Be in no hurry to lay hands on someone to dedicate him to the Lord's service. TEV

Even if Richard **Clyderman** – tendency - rely self – anointing can't flow

That's why in **music** – just becos – someone is can really play ... we don't put immed in any leadership

DOES God reqd – **perfect** bef God can use? **NO**

Ofien God works **despite** our weakness

Not totally **remove** weakness – he can even us jars of clay
2 Corinthians 4:7 – But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-**SURPASSING POWER** is from God and not from us.

Clay – not only **gold** vessels but common simple dirty smelly can be used – but must be **mouldable**

Amazing thing is that God puts his greatest gifts in ordinary vessel

Even tho – ord vessels – still a **PROCESS**

One frust we face as pas,

esp from some organisation n church – if a celebrity – singer – musicians or tycoon – came to Christ – **immed** – **limelight**

Given - **position** and prominence
Jesus does not **exclude** the high and noble – he minister - **Necodimus** came middle of night – to Zacheaus

Frust - not **use** but dev - while still **working**

Very **frustrating** from the **pastoral** perspective - we are here not to **use** people but to **develop** people

Frustrating – while still working on personal life – given position – without checking with us – such things as business ethics – min ethics

While we are still working with the family life, marriage – given a position – without **checking** w us – no common sense and **ministerial** ethics

One such – wife – got to sell in Pasar

malam – man refused to work – given position – got the power – refuse serve in **simple** way and in **Bible** study

Ano – took years – to made ma whole

– given **position** – **used** – not finished yet

By pass **process** - not given opport to grow – to be the **vessel** God wants you to be - **Mary**

Pride – don't serve - don't think need come Kingdom classes

Kneads – beat tear press stretch – remove air – renew mind – avoid cracks in fut

First, maker **kneads** the clay into a dough

Like one making bread, **beat tear press stretch** ... the beatings remove the **air** ... pressing renew mind

– same way lots of 'air' to remove before God can put his greatest treasures in us

Kingdom keys – remove old thinking – kngdom Excellence – enlarge vision – Kingdom Grace – reply on God not self; tearing pride away ... and serving in a simple unassuming manner

Wheel – shape – round and round – personally shaped

Next, the maker put the vessel on a **rotating wheel** - personally **shape** the dough into a beautiful unique artwork – you have a unique calling – turning round and round – perfecting the shape

Sometimes – we feel – going **round** and round

– for our good and excellence
Unthinkable - **shelf**

And the maker – do the unthinkable – left the vessel (almost perfect) on a **shelf!**

God is more interest in **char** and att than our work! **Excess** water got to be dried up. Normally 18 months! If the vessel feel unfair, why others are used – maker say – ano 3 more months

Rebellious – bring down again – reshaped – process all over again

Process seems to be **wasting** time – boring – dry. **ENJOY** it by looking at Jesus – **Martha**

You can be busy like Malta – and God say – I don't know you (tho you had cast out demons, etc). not that you can't get to heaven. But in heaven God says – I don't know what you are doing – you are not fulfilling my purpose

Can be in lots of committees and appear busy – but not fulfilling God's purpose. Best to be a Mary – sat at the feet and looking and listening – just one act - fulfil a tremendous purpose in preparing Jesus for his burial

Next is the firing **furnace** - heat to 500 degrees- **why**

Why – the vessels will be able to stand heat- land of promise

Even the **promised** land has giants
Problem, difficulties, obstacles

To be sure – God **didn't** send the giants

Illegal occupants – squatters
Why did God allow the giants?

Allow – why? bread
bigger houses – deeper wells – for God's people
Edwin Land, founder of the Polaroid:

The first thing you do is to teach the person to feel that the vision is very important and nearly impossible. That draws out the drive in winners and uncork pent up energies and abilities.

Charles Swindoll in his book *Living Above The Level Of Mediocrity*:

Without the motivation of divinely empowered insight and enthusiasm, people tend toward the average, doing just enough to get by, excellence is not only lost in the shuffle, whenever it rears its head, it is considered a threat.

The greater the problem, the greater the opportunities

What was the reason they failed to enter the Land of Promise?

Sad – they didn't enter – why? – Giants? No! - not defeated by giants – **fear** – fear – not root problem – wrong belief – instead of seeing a big God – focus on giants – saw themselves – grasshoppers

Num 13 33
Job 3:25

25 What I feared has come upon me; what I dreaded has happened to me.

Fear not root – wrong belief

Job 1:21

The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD." NKJV

How overcome fear and real giants?

I. Let God's Word remove every wrong beliefs

Not man's tradition – even if well known international speaker – she – lots of illustrations – faith not based on just testimonies – Word!

Exodus 20:5

5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,

Galatians 3:13

13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree."

Malachi – same problem – people frightened into giving

Malachi 3:9-10

9 You are under a curse-- the whole nation of you-- because you are robbing me.

10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.

Christ redeemed curse – give - floodgates

Ps from Philippines used the teaching – blessed

What is the context of the NT teaching on sowing and reaping?

Gal 6:6-10

6 Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches. 7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

Context: sowing into those giving Word. Take care. Time – talent – finance.

8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

Flesh?? – immed – moral sins – context - actually – Self effort: Paul Rom 7 – 35 "I"

Things I want to do I don't do but things I don't want to do I do – wretched man that I am

Self-centred, preoccupied w self

– stinginess - get all you can – can all you get

9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. NKJV

Why did Paul encourage the sowing even though he was abounding?

2 Corinthians 9:6

6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 ... for God loves a cheerful giver.

Context again: Not about gen curses – measure of blessings - Grati – make us whole – God can entrust givers w more

Phil 4:16-20

17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. 18 Indeed I have all and abound. I am full ...

, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.

Paul already greatly **blessed** – still **enc giving** – knows the **tre blessing** on the givers

– **God can trust givers with more** – *not just his need – opport for him to bless others*

(some just give according to need – instead of what Holy Spirit leads)

19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. NKJV

2 Corinthians 9:13-14

13 Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with **them** and with everyone else.

14 And in their **prayers** for **you** their hearts will go out to **you**, because of the surpassing grace God has given **you**.

World – highly impersonal – large corp – only by number

Given to the institution – done duty – Paul – brings out the personal element – ministers himself – personal touch – fruit

– Generate personal prayers

Isaiah 53:5

5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

One other area – NT talk abt sowing – with regards to – **Word – seed – tre creative powr – Kingdom classes – Sunday**

How hundred fold blessing?

Receptive – presence

Luke 5:17

17 One day as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law, who had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem, were sitting there. And the power of the Lord was present for him to heal the sick.

Ex 33:12-14

2. Keep your eyes on God's *power* and *glory*

Saw *giants* - died

Focus on giants – die in wilderness

Every time you listen – *negatives* – a bit of your vision die, dream, life die – without vision – peo perish

What are the negative things that we must avoid in order not to loose our inheritance?

-ve news – gossips – scandals

Prov 18:8-9

8 What dainty morsels rumors are--but they sink deep into one's heart. NLT

Those that saw **GRAPES** – God can do - lives

Keep seeing what **God** can do – inherit

What must we focus on?

Not live in *denials* – but focus on INC

Shaking yes – that those that cannot be shaken remain!

Centre of *gravity* of world – move towards Asia – econ, finan, people, intellectual dynamics – **particularly** SE Asia – echoed by both Europeans and US

Tsunami - Joseph – **INC** – Come early – prepare heart to see God's glory - **students**

Zechariah 4:6 So he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty.

Gideon

Against 135,000 Midianites - 300

With an army of 300 - **alert**

God wants us to trust him alone for success

David – youth – no armour no exp no weapon

There is no great people, only ordinary people with a *great* God.

What God can do thru them

But *big* dreams will make big people.

Dan 11:32 ...but the people that do know their God shall be **strong**, and do exploits. KJV

boleh

Before move in – RLC in trouble – cannot raise 14 – before crisis – CORRECT – don't have great people – *great* God.

Just before we move into our new building - Someone says RLC is in trouble - Not able to raise money (14 mill) to move in - That was even bef the econ crisis

I told the congregation

The man is correct - We do not have great man -In the natural yes

But we have a *great* God

He loves use **Ord** man – great vision – process change him to be big man

In the last analysis – it is not the money

God easily appear in dream to rich tycoon – all paid – easily rain gold

God chose to use ordinary people to give most extraordinary way – in the process make big people out of them

Ex 33:15-23