

HEARTBEATS Staying Connected 8/5/2024
GOD Chooses the Wrong People

Dear Friends in CHRIST,

ONE AT ONE – *Every day this week beginning on Tuesday, August 6 you are encouraged to pray for one minute at one o'clock. This week, pray for those who do not have a meaningful relationship with GOD. Ask that the HOLY SPIRIT might awaken faith in them that they might seek out the LORD. Pray for faithful workers (including yourself) to go out and bring in the harvest.*

GOD chooses the wrong people. We're used to seeking out people we can admire, people who have good values and set good examples for others. But GOD chooses the wrong people.

Abraham left his homeland with his wife Sarah to go to the land GOD had promised. But Abraham also lied about his relationship with Sarah, claiming she was his sister (well, they were stepsiblings) to protect himself from those who might kill him to have her because she was beautiful.

Isaac also lied about his wife, Rebekah, in the same way.

Jacob was a cheat. He managed to get his brother to give Jacob his inheritance for a bowl of stew. He lied to his father to receive his father's blessing with the help of his mother.

Jacob's son, Joseph, was arrogant.

Moses was a murderer.

Moses' brother, Aaron, fashioned an idol for the Israelites to worship.

Rahab, one of JESUS' ancestors, was a prostitute.

David was an adulterer and a murderer.

Matthew forced his fellow citizens to pay money to support the enemy that occupied their homeland.

Peter tried to block JESUS from going to Jerusalem and lied about knowing JESUS in the high priest's courtyard.

Paul had Christians arrested and murdered.

GOD chooses the wrong people. They simply are not the kind of people we want to serve as role models. Yet, despite all of their flaws and shortcomings, some of which were great, they also faithfully answered GOD's call and kept their faith in GOD. They served GOD and GOD's people devotedly even with their flaws.

But we're not like them, are we? We haven't committed murder, though we have said and done things that have wounded peoples' self-image. We haven't made idols to worship, though we have too often put other things ahead of GOD. We haven't persecuted Christians, though we have failed to stand up for our faith. And maybe we've told the occasional lie. And maybe we've denied or hidden our faith in JESUS.

Maybe we are like them—those people that GOD chose. Maybe we're not all that different from the failed individuals through whom GOD accomplished great things for the Kingdom. And maybe that's the reason why

GOD has chosen us. Maybe, just maybe, we're the same kind of people that GOD calls and through whom GOD can work through to do the things that GOD needs to be done.

And maybe, just maybe that's what JESUS came to tell us. And maybe that's part of what the good news is all about. GOD chooses the wrong people—people like us. Praise GOD!

In CHRIST's love,
Pastor JEFFREY