

THE VESSEL GOD USES

TEXT - II Tim. 2:20, 21

5/28/2023

INTRO- We either honor or dishonor God, some usable, some on a shelf, some pretty, some practical, some worn.

Expect great things from God attempt great things for God. -- William Carey

I. Available Vessel - and dependable

A. For fellowship

B. To glorify Him

God uses ordinary men and women to overcome impossible circumstances to accomplish His gracious purposes.

C. Be usable

Surrender is being willing to do anything and be obedient to God in everything.

No one is too small for God to use them.

Isa 6:8 *Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, here am I; send me.*

If not you, who? If not now, when?

ILL. Valentine Wightman started the first Baptist Church in Connecticut.

II. A Clean Vessel 1 Th 4:4 *That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;*

Isa 66:20 *bring an offering in a clean vessel into the house of the LORD.*

Christianity is not just a high-sounding ritual which we perform on Sundays. Christianity is abiding by Biblical standards of personal holiness and in turn seeking to bring holiness into the society in which we live.

Daniel purposed not to defile himself

Judges 16:4-30 Sin will:

1. Take you farther than you wanted to go 4-20
2. Keep you longer than you wanted to stay 21
3. Cost you more than you were willing to pay 30

The secret of true obedience is the clear and close personal relationship to God. All our attempts after full obedience will be failures until we get access to his abiding fellowship. It is God's holy presence consciously abiding with us that keeps us from disobeying Him. I must consciously include the Lord in every thought, activity, and conversation until the habit is established. -- Andrew Murray

Nothing between my soul and the Savior,
Naught of this world's delusive dream:

I have renounced all sinful pleasure-
Jesus is mine! There's nothing between.

2 Nothing between, like worldly pleasure:
Habits of life, though harmless they seem,
Must not my heart from Him ever sever-
He is my all! There's nothing between.

3 Nothing between, like pride or station:
Self or friends shall not intervene;
Though it may cost me much tribulation,
I am resolved! There's nothing between.

4 Nothing between, e'en many hard trials,
Though the whole world against me convene;
Watching with prayer and much self denial-
Triumph at last, with nothing between! [Refrain]

Refrain:

Nothing between my soul and the Savior,
So that His blessed face may be seen;

Nothing preventing the least of His favor:
Keep the way clear! Let nothing between.

III. Empty Vessel Eph 5:18 *And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;*

David Livingstone wrote in his journal concerning his "selfless" life: People talk of the sacrifice I have made in spending so much of my life in Africa. Can that be called a sacrifice which is simply paying back a small part of the great debt owing to our God, which we can never repay? Is that a sacrifice which brings its own blest reward in healthful activity, the consciousness of doing good, peace of mind and a bright hope of glorious destiny hereafter? Away with the word in such a view and with such a thought! It is emphatically no sacrifice. Say rather it is a privilege.

IV. Broken Vessel John 12:24-25 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.*

2 Corinthians 4:7 *But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.*

Evan Robert's prayer for revival was "Lord bend me"

Before we can build, we must weep over the ruins.

Nehemiah 1:4 *And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven,*

God can not use a man greatly until He first wounds him deeply.

– A. W. Tozer

V. Moving Vessel

Wherever you are, be all there! Live to the hilt every situation you believe to be the will of God. Jim Elliot.

The European cuckoo bird is a "freeloader" in its very unusual nesting habits. When spring comes, it does not construct a home for its yearly brood. Instead, the female searches out an unsuspecting "foster home" and lays an egg in the nest of another such as the hedge sparrow. The cuckoo's offspring is left to be hatched and cared for by its "foster parent." While still featherless and blind, the intruder soon dominates the nest by pushing the rightful occupants over the edge to death. Then it monopolizes all the attention of its new "parents."

Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. All the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can. – John Wesley

CONCL – What the church needs to day is not more or better machinery, not new organizations or more and novel methods. She needs men whom the Holy Spirit can use – men of prayer, men mighty in prayer. The Holy Spirit does not flow through methods, but through men. He does not anoint plans, but men – men of prayer! – E. M. Bounds
Are you a vessel God can use? Mat 6:33 *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*