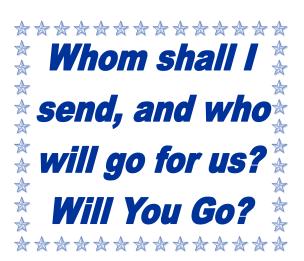
Are you available to work in God's Kingdom?

Have You Counted The Cost?

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By: Robert Dallmann

"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." (Isaiah 6:8)

God has always looked for people to serve Him. He still seeks humble servants... Christ-like servants.

Many Christians, once they have been touched by the wonderful, forgiving love of Jesus, want to live for Him. Many desire to serve Him all of the days of their lives.

These desires are good and right. But it is not easy to accomplish these goals. We must count the cost of being His disciple.

"For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and coun-

WHOM SHALL I SEND, AND WHO WILL GO FOR US? WILL YOU GO?

teth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?" (Luke 14:28)

Kingdom Workers Are Lacking

God does want laborers for His kingdom. There are many people who need to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ, but few working at this task.

Do you hear God calling you today? Is He saying, "Will you tell people about me? Will you share the Way of eternal life with others?" He is calling. He has called you already. Will you answer?

"Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2)

Are You Prepared?

Young Christians often look at leaders and are drawn by the "power" and "authority" that they perceive. It is true that God bestows authority upon people. It is true that God calls us to honor those that He places in leadership positions.

However, seasoned Christians look at leadership and see the reality. Reality is that leaders have enormous "accountability" and "responsibility". Now this puts the desire for leadership in

a new light. This causes one to view "counting the cost" with more intense gravity.

Desiring leadership is truly a good thing. The Bible says so. But it is also a very serious thing, and the desire must be weighed with these facts in mind.

"It is true that anyone who desires to be a church official wants to be something worthwhile." (1 Timothy 3:1 - CEV)

What Bible Leaders Say About God's Plans?

Moses said, "Not me Lord, I don't speak well!"

"And Moses said unto the LORD, O my LORD, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue." (Exodus 4:10)

Isaiah said, "Oh God, how long?"

"Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate," (Isaiah 6:11)

Jeremiah said, "Not me Lord, I am only a child."

"Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child." (Jeremiah 1:6)

Jesus said, "Not My will but Yours"

"Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done."

(Luke 22:42)

Are You Available?

As you can see, most powerful leaders of the Bible did not want to do what God wanted them to do, at least not initially. Why is this true?

In many cases, the person called by God felt that they were not qualified to fulfill God's call. **They weren't!**

God does not seek people with abilities... He seeks people with availabilities!

God desires people who love Him, worship Him and want to serve Him. There is no shortage of gifting available from God. There is no lack of skills we can be given from Him. What is lacking is laborers!

In some cases, the task that God wanted them to do was not appealing. Jesus Himself did not want to go to the Cross. He hated the thought of being severed from fellowship with His Father, even if only temporarily.

Isaiah quickly volunteered and god took him up on it. Immediately after God told him what He wanted Isaiah to do, Isaiah said, "Oh God, how long?"