Perspectives on Service

March 25, 2018 John Brown

Who Am I? I'm not capable!

Moses: **Exodus 3:10-12** "Therefore, come now and I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My People, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, **"Who am I, that I should to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?"**

And He said, "Certainly I will be with you..."

Gideon: Judges 6:14-15 "The LORD^[2]looked at him and said, "Go in this your strength and deliver Israel from the hand of Midian. Have I not sent you?" ¹⁵ He said to Him, "O Lord, how shall I deliver Israel? Behold, my family is the least in Manasseh, and I am the youngest in my father's house."

Jeramiah: Jeramiah 1:4-8⁴ Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, ⁵ "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, And before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations." ⁶ Then I said, "Alas, Lord ^[a]God! Behold, I do not know how to speak, Because I am a youth." ⁷ But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am a youth,' Because everywhere I send you, you shall go,

And all that I command you, you shall speak. ⁸ "Do not be afraid of them, For I am with you to deliver you," declares the Lord.

Billy Graham: "I wasn't capable." "I don't have the proper education."

It is not about your adequacy, it is about God's power.

You are <u>uniquely equipped</u> for your ministry.

Romans 12:4-6 "⁴ For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function,⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, *each of us is to exercise them accordingly...*"

1 Corinthians 12:7 ^{*m*} But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Don't seek comfort, pursue obedience.

1 Peter 4:12-14: "¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; ¹³ but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. ¹⁴ If you are reviled ^[i]for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you."

1 Corinthians 4:10 "We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are prudent in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are distinguished, but we are without honor.

Colossians 3:23 "Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance."

Your ministry extends beyond the church

Luke 10:1-6 "Now after this the Lord appointed ^[a]seventy others, and sent them in pairs ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come. ²And He was saying to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.³Go; behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. ⁴Carry no money belt, no ^[b]bag, no shoes; and greet no one on the way. ⁵Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace *be* to this house.' ⁶If a ^[c]man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you.