

**THE**



**HARVESTER**

*“The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest” (Luke 10:2)*

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**NOT TO THINK TOO HIGHLY OF SELF**

Some people are individuals who know-it-all. They know everything, have a solution for everything, and claim to be able to do everything. I remember many years ago a young man attended our assembly and claimed he was an excellent mechanic and could fix everything. We let him work on our car but he failed and created more problems. Then there is the other extreme where an individual does nothing worthwhile because they believe they can't do anything; they let everyone else do the work because they believe they are incapable of doing anything

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right. The first extreme is of one who has an inflated ego and picture of themselves. The other extreme is of one who has very small self-worth or trust in God. While most of us are neither extreme, at times we may think too highly of ourselves and at other times do nothing when we really are able.

We are taught to not be proud of our abilities:

*That no one of you be puffed up for one against another. For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it? (1 Cor. 4:6b-7)*

It is God who has given us abilities – there is no room for boasting. The apostle Paul was given a thorn in the flesh to keep him from being exalted.

*And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong. (2 Cor. 12:7-10)*

The apostle Paul learned to gain strength from Christ rather than be proud of his own strengths and accomplishments.

We are also taught that we must use the abilities with which God has blessed us. Jesus gave the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-15.

*For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.*

The parable deals with three servants who had different abilities. They were given talents (money) based upon their ability. The first two servants took the money given them, applied their ability and gained additional money for their master. For this they were blessed. The last servant took the money given him and did not apply his ability to gain additional money for his master. The master called this servant “wicked and slothful”. He was cast into outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. This parable is obviously applicable to us. If we do not apply our abilities for God’s glory, we too will be called wicked and slothful and cast into outer darkness.

You need to make a proper self-evaluation.

*For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. (Rom. 12:3)*

Be sober in your self-evaluation and realize the abilities and capabilities that God has given to you. Use your abilities and capabilities for His glory.

**ED ANDERSON**  
**Sierra Vista, AZ**

***GOOD IS NOT ENOUGH***  
***WHERE BETTER IS EXPECTED***

## SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. What bird could poor people use for sacrifices if they could not afford lambs?
2. In the time of the Judges, civil war broke out against which tribe?
3. Who walked barefoot and naked for three years at the Lord's command?
4. Which gospel records the fewest of the miracles performed by Jesus?
5. Paul, Timothy, and who else sent their greetings to Thessalonica?

...and remember last month's questions?

1. During Jacob's struggle with the angel, the hollow of which part of Jacob's body was touched and put out of joint? **THIGH** (Genesis 32:25)
2. What was Samson's offer of reward if the Philistines could solve his riddle? **CLOTHING** (Judges 14:12)
3. Which bird does Job say is "lacking in wisdom," due to the fact she leaves her eggs on the floor? **OSTRICH** (Job 39:13-17)
4. What occupation did Priscilla have? **TENTMAKER** (Acts 18:2-3)
5. The fifth trumpet in Revelation is a plague which was also a plague upon Egypt in Exodus. Which one? **LOCUSTS** (Revelation 9:1-4)

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## POPULARITY

In school, kids want to be popular. They want others to like them, to think highly of them. They want to fit in with the majority. Some older people are like that, too. They want to

be popular. What does the Bible have to say about being popular?

Popularity in the Bible is obtained in a variety of ways: by heroic exploits as Gideon (Judges 8:21-22), by trickery as Absalom (2 Sam. 15:1-6), by unusual wisdom as Solomon, and by outward display as the hypocrites in Jesus' day (Matt. 6:2, 5, 16).

The Bible also teaches these things about popularity:

Popularity has been sought by worldly leaders. *“For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God”* (John 12:43). The way that the world usually works, men have to be popular to be elected as leaders. Thus, they constantly seek the praise of men, whether it is right or wrong.

King Saul sought power and fame. He wanted all the credit for himself and constantly ignored God. While he did achieve some popularity, it made him proud and arrogant. On the other hand, David did not actively seek popularity. Yet his fame and power increased because he consistently trusted in God (1 Chron. 11:9). When the entire nation was praising him and bragging about him killing his “ten thousands” (1 Sam. 18:7), David remained humble. Like David, we should be concerned more about righteousness, honesty, and excellence, and leave the fame and glory to God.

*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.* (Matt. 5:16)

Obeying God may make you unpopular. Consider John the

**Baptist who was later beheaded:**

*But Herod the tetrarch, being reprov'd by him for Herodias his brother Philip's wife, and for all the evils which Herod had done, Added yet this above all, that he shut up John in prison. (Luke 3:19-20)*

**God doesn't want us to be popular with everyone. Believers must stay away from some popular activities.**

*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. (1 John 2:15-17)*

**Christian servants were told not to do things in order to be popular, not to be men-pleasers:**

*Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: (Col. 3:22).*

**Generally, being popular involves being friends with sinners, condoning sin. God does not approve of such**

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associations.

***Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. (Jas. 4:4)***

It is more important to be popular with Christ than with people. The one we need to please the most and put first in our lives is Christ!

***And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. (Luke 14:25-27)***

Therefore, the Bible teaches us not to seek worldly popularity. But what about Jesus? He was popular with the crowds. Notice the following:

***And straightway many were gathered together, insomuch that there was no room to receive them, no, not so much as about the door: and he preached the word unto them. (Mark 2:2; see also Mark 3:10; 5:24; Luke 5:1; 8:19)***

Why was Jesus popular? Because of his teaching (Mark 1:22, 27); because of his healing (Mark 5:20); because of his miracles (John 12:18, 19); because of his feeding the people (John 6:15-27); and because of the people's curiosity (John 12:9).

# Gospel Meetings

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<b>DATES</b>	<b>PLACE</b>	<b>SPEAKER</b>
Nov. 6 - 8	Claud Eclectic, AL	Joe Hill (Hager Hill, KY)
Nov. 6 - 8	Antioch Douglasville, GA	Ron Scott (Bloomington, IN)
Nov. 19 - 22	South Shore South Shore, KY	Joe Hill (Hager Hill, KY)
Nov. 27 - 29	Verona Verona, KY	Joe Hill (Hager Hill, KY)

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However, He was not always popular. In fact His popularity declined when He foretold His death (Matt. 16:21-28) and when He taught high ethical standards (Mark 8:34-38). Just before His crucifixion, even His friends left Him (Matt. 26:56b, 75). As it was becoming more evident that Jesus was here to please God rather than men, his popularity with the world decreased. The same with us.

We must seek popularity with God, not the world. Being popular with the world right now might get us some recognition, but it will be fleeting. Being popular with God as a *“good and faithful servant”* will allow us to later enter *“into the joy of [our] Lord”* (Matt. 25:21, 23) for eternity.

Based on a sermon by RAY MCMANUS  
(Deceased)