

has done amazing things through people who did not think they could do much for Him!

God expects you to supply your part. God does not expect you to do everything that must be done by His entire body. But, He does expect you to supply your part (Ephesians 4:16; Romans 12:3-8)! Although some may be able to do more than others, every member of Christ's body must do whatever he/she can. In this way, God will be pleased!

God expects you to be growing. Being a disciple of Jesus is a growing process (2 Peter 3:18; Hebrews 5:12). So, God is not pleased if you are lukewarm and stagnant (Revelation 3:1, 15-17). The only way to grow is to continue to push yourself beyond your comfort zone so that you can develop yourself to do more in His service because of your love for Him!

Seeing The Results

Proper view of your place in God's work. Before the change of this mentality, the questions demonstrated a failure of understanding your role in God's work. Now, the mentality should be: "I am committed to doing whatever I possibly can in the service of God and recognize there is a unique way I can be used to glorify God."

Commitment to growth. Before the change of this mentality, the questions demonstrated a failure to push yourself and put the responsibilities on others. Now, the mentality should be: "I am committed to growing and living for Christ, even if I must push myself to step outside my comfort zone, rather than the work being left undone or to others."

Faith in God. Before the change of this mentality, the questions demonstrated doubt that God could use you in important and effective ways. Now, the mentality should be: "I recognize that God chose to use imperfect and common people to accomplish His works and that He will use me to glorify Him if I will trust Him enough to do what He says."

Conclusion

Are you guilty of the "Somebody else can do it" mentality? If so, I hope this lesson has challenged you and opened your eyes to the failure of this mindset. Whenever you see a work God wants done, evaluate if there is anything you can do to accomplish it and challenge yourself to be continually growing in Christ and serving Him to the best of your ability!



"Once upon a time, there were four men named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. But Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it. But Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about it, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, and Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody and Nobody did the job that Anybody could have done in the first place. At last report, these four men were still arguing and the job they were supposed to do still wasn't done" (Author unknown). How many times are you guilty of leaving undone the things you are capable of doing (for various reasons)? This lesson is designed to serve as a warning and challenge to you if you possess this mindset toward the work of God (Matthew 9:37-38).

The purpose of this lesson is to learn to do your part in God's work rather than leaving your work to somebody else or leaving it undone.

What Is This Mentality?

Defining this mentality. This mentality recognizes that God has given His people work to accomplish, but puts most or all of the responsibility of accomplishing it on somebody else. This mentality fails to properly consider your own abilities and opportunities to do God's work yourself.

What this mentality accomplishes. First, this mindset puts all the burdens on someone else and handicaps the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27). Second, this mindset makes excuses for why you "shouldn't" be the one to do the work (Proverbs 22:13). Third, this mindset stunts your spiritual growth so you do not grow and mature as you should (Hebrews

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Written by Eric Krieg

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5:12). Fourth, this mindset robs God from the service you could provide Him (Malachi 3:8).

Some questions this mentality asks. Consider some examples. Why should I have to do “x” whenever others can do it – and probably even do a “better” job? Does God really expect me to push myself beyond what I am comfortable doing? How much does God really expect me to do for Him? Why would God ever want me to do “x” in His service considering all my faults and weaknesses? Why isn’t brother/sister “so-and-so” taking care of the work? Why hasn’t someone volunteered to take care of what needs done?

This mentality must be avoided. In all these questions, you can see there is a lack of interest/willingness to give as much in God’s service as you can give. Although you can see the work that needs done, the responsibility of doing it has been passed off to somebody else. Therefore, this mentality is focused on yourself rather than God (i.e. what you want to do). But, God knows what you can do in His service and will judge you accordingly (Matthew 25:14-30)!

Areas In Which This Mentality Is Manifested

Leadership of the local church. God desires there to be shepherds, evangelists, and teachers at work among His churches today (Ephesians 4:11-16). Within a local church, God’s desire is for each congregation to have multiple shepherds (elders) and deacons (Philippians 1:1). However, men who fill these various roles must work to develop themselves so as to do these works (1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9). Unfortunately, there are many situations in which men do not develop themselves in these ways so as to be prepared to serve in these roles. Furthermore, some who could fill these roles are unwilling to take on these responsibilities.

The worship of the local church. God wants every local church to assemble and worship Him. When the church assembles, someone must lead the congregation in these activities of worship (i.e. singing, preaching). Specifically, God has given this responsibility to men (1 Corinthians 14:34-35; 1 Timothy 2:11-12). Yet, it is common for men to be unwilling to push themselves to develop in areas beyond their comfort zones and leave it to somebody else. Then, some members take for granted the importance of their attendance, assuming that others will attend and lead/participate in the assemblies and encourage others while they choose to be absent (Hebrews 10:24-25).

The work of the local church. God has tasked the local church with the works of spreading the gospel to the lost (1 Thessalonians 1:8), edifying

the saved (Ephesians 4:11-16), and showing generosity toward needy Christians (1 Corinthians 16:1-2). Yet, it is common for most of the work to be accomplished by only a few. In fact, some may have the perception that their responsibility is just assembling and contributing financially so others can do the work. Then, some may give less financially than they could, assuming that others will give what is needed for the work.

Personal responsibilities of service. God wants every member of His body to be zealous in doing good works (Titus 2:11-14). In addition to the works of sharing the gospel, serving others, and edifying other Christians, the Scriptures teach all followers of Jesus to be looking for opportunities to give, do good, show hospitality, visit, and serve in various ways (Matthew 25:31-46)! Yet, it can be easy to excuse yourself from these various opportunities to serve others and Jesus by thinking that someone else will be in a better situation to do them.

Family roles. God has clearly defined roles within the family. The man has been given the responsibility of being the head of the household, loving his wife and children, providing for the family, training his children, etc. (Ephesians 5:22-6:4). The woman has the responsibility of respecting and submitting to her husband, loving her husband and children, keeping the home, etc. (Ephesians 5:22-24, 33; Titus 2:4-5). Children have the responsibility of obeying their parents (Ephesians 6:1-3). Yet, many choose not to fulfill their God-given roles in the home. Instead, they may try to change their roles or delegate them to others.

God Can Use You!

Comparing attitudes. There are various Bible characters who expressed various attitudes concerning the work God wanted them to do. For example, Moses made many excuses as to why someone else should have been chosen (Exodus 3:11, 13; 4:1, 10, 13). But, God used him anyways. Or, Gideon made excuses as to why someone else should have been chosen (Judges 6:15). But, God used him anyways. In contrast, when Isaiah saw a great vision of God on His throne (Isaiah 6:1-7) and heard God ask who should be sent, Isaiah volunteered (Isaiah 6:8)! And, God used him. Which attitude is most like yours?

You are a valuable part of the whole. You are a valuable member of the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27). Although you cannot do everything that needs to be done, you can do whatever you are capable of doing! No member of the body (not even the weaker members) are insignificant in what they can contribute (1 Corinthians 12:22). In fact, God