

SEE IT

Mark 3:13 Jesus went up on a mountainside. He called for certain people to come to him, and they came. ¹⁴ He appointed 12 of them and called them apostles. From that time on they would be with him. He would also send them out to preach. ¹⁵ They would have authority to drive out demons. ¹⁶ So Jesus appointed the Twelve.

OBEY IT

If you haven't noticed by now, serving people can be exhausting, even frustrating. In times when you want to give up, remember three important things:

1. The **Person** who calls you is important! Jesus called his disciples two thousand years ago, and he calls his disciples still. A sense of call is especially important during difficult times, because sometimes *all* you have is your call.
2. The **Purpose** why He called you is important. Recognize **why** He called you. Notice the three things that the disciples were able to do, after their call. Cast out demons. Preach. Heal. Sometimes the real purpose why Jesus called us gets lost. He called us to be with Him! We are to *be*, before we *do*.
3. The **Personality** of those he called with you is important. A close look at the personality of the disciples reveals anything else but uniformity. They were different, and that was a good thing. Different backgrounds. Different social status. Different politics. Different jobs. What message was Jesus trying to send us through the picking of the disciples? A simple one. If Jesus was able to transform and use them, he can do the same with me. Service for others was their common denominator.

SHARE IT

1. Be a courteous driver.
2. Hold the elevator.
3. Visit a lemonade stand or a corner food vendor and buy something.

My Prayer Today:

Lord, help me remember that I am a human being, not a human doing. That I must be with you, before I can work for you. Amen.

My Thoughts _____

SEE IT

1 Samuel 14:1 One day Jonathan said to his armor bearer, "Come on, let's go over to where the Philistines have their outpost." But Jonathan **did not tell** his father what he was doing.

OBEY IT

Suppose for a moment, that you are Jonathan. If you had a plan to attack the enemy, wouldn't the logical choice for sharing that valuable bellic information be the king, who was also your father? Yet, Jonathan chose not to share his plan. Be careful who you share your vision with.

Why careful?

1. **Some will get upset.** They don't like the fact that it wasn't their idea.
2. **Some will oppose it.** They don't like the fact that it wasn't them who was chosen.
3. **Some will laugh at it.** They see silliness where you see success.
4. **Some will question it.** They say "You sure?", not "how can I help you?"

Here is some practical advice. Once you are convinced that God has in fact given you a vision, when someone comes to give you the all the reasons why it won't work, you can take criticism in stride. Don't discount criticism altogether, it can be the sandpaper that can polish the work of art God and you are building. At the same time, don't let criticism stop progress. Whatever God blesses the devil attacks. While you don't want to be reckless and irresponsible with your decisions going forward, you do want to step out in faith. Most great inventions, as well as almost every great accomplishment had two things in common:

1. Was conceived by a visionary.
2. Was opposed or dismissed by many.

So, march ahead and serve your community in Jesus name.

SHARE IT

1. Visit a senior center or nursing home.
2. Say "thank you" for the otherwise routine, mundane.
3. Pick up trash.

My Prayer Today:

Father, I have a passion to serve my community but sometimes I run into opposition from people inside and outside of my church. Help me to see what you see and continue. Amen.

My Thoughts _____
