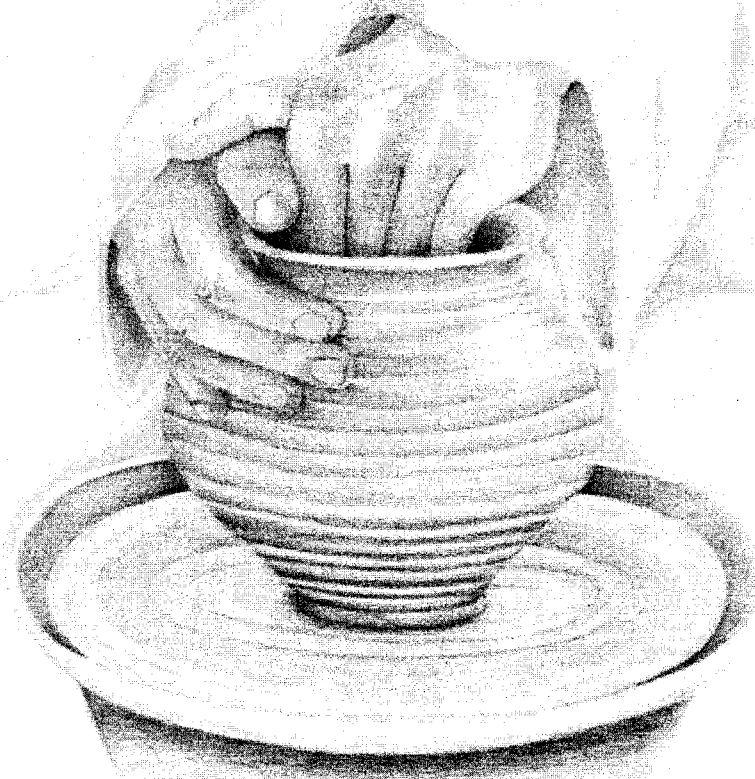


GOD'S WAY WITH



HIS SERVANTS

Dr. Scott Hanberry
Fusion, Fall 2014
Session 7 - Beyond a Shadow of a Doubt
God's Way with Thomas

First, let's review:

- Abraham - TESTING (Session 1 - Where, When) (Session 2 - How, Why)
- Moses - PREPARATION (3 seasons... God redeems and uses all of our experiences)
- David - HEART SHAPING (Trust and hope in God transcends external turmoil)
- Peter - RESTORATION (God redeems, transforms, restores and uses flawed, sinful people)
- Deborah - COURAGE (God gives supernatural victory to unlikely, surrendered people)

Now, let's preview:

- Thomas - TRANSFORMATION (God transforms the heart and makes vessels fit for the Master's use)

GOD USES _____! And we love them...don't we?

The twelve Apostles were all basically unqualified for the task. And yet these men literally turned the world upside down. It is amazing what God can do with just a very few people. Humanly speaking the world hails the few who attack the many; the out-manned, out-skilled, the ; when an individual goes up against great odds, the world esteems them heroes even if they lose -we love the underdog!

~ David against Goliath

~ Shamgar, a judge in Israel who picks up an ox goad (a sharpened stick used to prod and ox) and kills 600 enemies with it.

~ Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

We often identify people with a profession, with an item, or with a specific attitude or label...

How would others label your life? _____

How would you like for others to label your life? _____

What are 3 things you can do this week to work toward that label? _____

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 1. _____ Pele | A. Literature | 1. _____ Samson | A. His Coat |
| 2. _____ Pavoroti | B. Soccer | 2. _____ Joseph | B. Haircuts |
| 3. _____ Dickens | C. Science | 3. _____ Jonah | C. A boat |
| 4. _____ Picasso | D. Real Estate | 4. _____ Eve. | D. A Fish |
| 5. _____ Donald Trump | E. Painting/Art | 5. _____ Noah | E. Fleece |
| 6. _____ Einstein | F. Football | 6. _____ Gideon | F. Fruit |
| 7. _____ Joe Montana | G. Racing | 7. _____ Rahab | G. Doctor |
| 8. _____ Secretariat | H. Opera | 8. _____ Luke | H. Harlot |

What would you most identify Thomas with? _____.

The Lord uses strong, bold leaders like Peter who take charge, initiate plans, strategize, confront, command people and who make big, big blunders.

And He uses humble, gentle, inconspicuous souls like Andrew who seek no prominence but quietly bring people to Christ.

And He uses zealous, passionate, uncompromising task--oriented, insensitive, ambitious men like James.

As well as sensitive, tender, loving people oriented, believing, intimate truth seekers like John.

And He uses skeptical, analytical, mechanical, slow-witted, weak-faith, visionless, pessimistic, insecure men like Philip.

And He uses seekers of truth, honest, open, clear--minded, meditative, deeply surrendered men like Nathanael Bartholomew who are full of faith and understanding and yet who are flawed by serious sin such as prejudice.

And those who deny and those who doubt...

Matthew, Mark and Luke give us nothing about Thomas, but John, always digging into the heart of people, opens Thomas up to us.

John 11:14-16

Here we see in Thomas:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____

Herbert Lockyer says, "Like those brave knights in attendance upon the blind King John of Bohemia who rode into the battle of Crecy with their bridles intertwined with that of their master, resolved to share his fate, whatever it might be...so Thomas, come life, come death, was resolved not to forsake his Lord seeing he was bound to Him by a deep and enthusiastic love."

John 14:1-6

Here we see in Thomas:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

John 20:24

Thomas - yes he was melancholy, he was moody, pessimistic, comfortless, shattered, but when he saw the Lord Jesus Christ, he gave the greatest testimony ever given. And you know what? In that one little statement Thomas gave the speech that literally destroys every lie that has been told about Jesus not being God that has ever been uttered in the history of man!