

# Notes used in the Message

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## 15-0429 - Why God Only Wants Losers In His Army - Luis Urrego

### II CORINTHIANS 4:1-10

- » **1** † ¶ Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;
- » **2** † But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.
- » **3** † But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:
- » **4** † In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.
- » **5** † For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.
- » **6** † **For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**
- » **7** † **But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.**
- » **8** † ¶ We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;
- » **9** † Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;
- » **10** † Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

» **6** † **For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

- The Word is the Light

» **7** † **But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.**

- The gospel of Jesus Christ is the treasure we possess which is that same light from verse 6
- The word used for "earthen vessels" in verse 7 refers to ordinary earthenware. These clay pots were used by common people to store grain, hide valuables, and to keep oil for lighting their lamps.
- Paul is saying, "We're not like a vase from the Ming dynasty. **We're cheap brown pots you can buy at Wal-Mart.**"
- **These pots are fragile and are easily broken.**
- We are nothing but dust and made out of the same clay According to **Genesis 2:7**
- Some of us dressed up a little better, some of us look a little stronger, some of us last a little longer, but in the end we all go back to the dust.
- **It's in these earthen vessels that God wants to hide His treasures in...**
- "Antiques Roadshow"

### I CORINTHIANS 1:17-30

- » **17** † ¶ For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.
- » **18** † For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.
- » **19** † For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.
- » **20** † Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?
- » **21** † For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

- » **22** † For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:
- » **23** † But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;
- » **24** † But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.
- » **25** † Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.
- » **26** † For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:
- » **27** † But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;
- » **28** † And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:
- » **29** † That no flesh should glory in his presence.
- » **30** † But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:
- » **31** † That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

### **MATTHEW 16:24-25**

- » **24** † ¶ Then said Jesus unto his disciples, *If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*
- » **25** † **For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.**

### **Lets Disect This Verse For A Moment**

#### **GREEK LEXICON -- STRONG'S NUMBER 622**

**622** *apollumi* {ap-ol'-loo-mee} *ajpovllumi* from 575 and the base of 3639; TDNT -- 1:394,67; vb

AV -- perish (33)  
 -- destroy (26)  
 -- lose (22)  
 -- be lost (5)  
 -- lost (4)  
 -- misc (2) [92]

- 1) to destroy, i.e. to put out of the way entirely, abolish, put an end to ruin, render useless, to kill, to declare that one must be put to death, to devote or give over to eternal misery
- 2) to destroy i.e. to lose

- God prefers losers, because he prefers people who know their weakness, see their flaws, admit their mistakes, and cry out to him for help.

This Ties Directly To:

### **II CORINTHIANS 4:10**

- » **10** † Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

Consider the roll call of God's imperfect heroes:

- Noah got drunk.
- Abraham lied about his wife.
- Sarah laughed at God.

- Jacob was a deceiver.
- Moses murdered an Egyptian.
- Rahab was a harlot.
- Gideon was fearful.
- Samson had serious problems with lust and anger.
- Eli failed as a father.
- David was an adulterer and a murderer.
- Solomon married foreign wives who turned his heart toward idolatry.
- Elijah struggled with depression.
- Jonah ran away from God.
- Peter denied Christ.
- Paul was complicit to murder and one time argued with Barnabas.
- Barnabas compromised the gospel.
- James and John wanted special seats in the kingdom.
- All the apostles argued about who was the greatest.
- **If God chose only well-rounded people with no character flaws, some of the credit would inevitably go to the people and not to the Lord.**

### **JUDGES 7:1-9 (GIDEON)**

» **1** † ¶ Then Jerubbaal, who is Gideon, and all the people that were with him, rose up early, and pitched beside the well of Harod: so that the host of the Midianites were on the north side of them, by the hill of Moreh, in the valley.

» **2** † And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me.

» **3** † Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Whosoever is fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from mount Gilead. And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand.

» **4** † And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people are yet too many; bring them down unto the water, and I will try them for thee there: and it shall be, that of whom I say unto thee, This shall go with thee, the same shall go with thee; and of whomsoever I say unto thee, This shall not go with thee, the same shall not go.

» **5** † So he brought down the people unto the water: and the LORD said unto Gideon, Every one that lappeth of the water with his tongue, as a dog lappeth, him shalt thou set by himself; likewise every one that boweth down upon his knees to drink.

» **6** † And the number of them that lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men: but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water.

» **7** † And the LORD said unto Gideon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand: and let all the other people go every man unto his place.

» **8** † So the people took victuals in their hand, and their trumpets: and he sent all the rest of Israel

every man unto his tent, and retained those three hundred men: and the host of Midian was beneath him in the valley.

» **9** † ¶ And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Arise, get thee down unto the host; for I have delivered it into thine hand.

### • **God Wants All The Glory To Go To Himself!**

- God put this treasure in earthen vessels - on purpose! He does it so that when great things happen, the people around us will come to only one possible conclusion:

"All I know is, it can't be him. It can't be her. He's not that smart. She's not that strong. It's got to be God."

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**E-20** Isn't that beautiful? Jesus Christ saying, "Now, you all believe John; he was a prophet; he just preached away. You all went and believed him, and you know he was a prophet." Though he never done one miracle. But he was the greatest prophet that ever lived (Jesus said so), until his time. Said, "Never was a man born of a woman as great as John the Baptist." He never done one miracle and only lived six months. But why was he so great? Because he bore a record of Christ. And when you see somebody giving God praise, and God glory, then you can realize that that person's coming from God. Isn't that... Giving God the glory. That's right.

And John said, "I must decrease and He must increase."

They said, "Are you the Messiah?"

He said, "I'm nothing."

But Jesus come around and said, "Oh, yes he is; he's the greatest from among women." That's better, don't you think? Let somebody else say it. Live so that somebody else will say it. That's the--that's the way to do it; do the right thing. Somebody, God will bear record for you.

### **II CORINTHIANS 12:7-10**

» **7** † 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.

» **8** † For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

» **9** † **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.**

» **10** † 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.

### **Text Illustration:**

I read recently the story of a 10-year-old boy who decided to study judo despite the fact that he had lost his left arm in a devastating car accident.

The boy began lessons with an old Japanese judo master. The boy was doing well, so he couldn't understand why, after three months of training, the master had taught him only one move.

"Sensei," the boy finally said, "Shouldn't I be learning more moves?"

"This is the only move you know, but this is the only move you'll ever need to know," the sensei replied. Not quite understanding, but believing in his teacher, the boy kept training.

Several months later, the sensei took the boy to his first tournament. Surprising himself, the boy easily won his first two matches. The third match proved to be more difficult, but after some time, his opponent became impatient and charged; the boy deftly used his one move to win the match.

Still amazed by his success, the boy was now in the finals. This time, his opponent was bigger, stronger, and more experienced. For a while, the boy appeared to be overmatched. Concerned that the boy might get hurt, the referee called a time-out. He was about to stop the match when the sensei intervened. "No," the sensei insisted, "Let him continue."

Soon after the match resumed, his opponent made a critical mistake: he dropped his guard. Instantly, the boy used his move to pin him. The boy had won the match and the tournament. He was the champion.

On the way home, the boy and the sensei reviewed every move in each and every match. Then the boy summoned the courage to ask what was really on his mind: "Sensei, how did I win the tournament with only one move?"

"You won for two reasons," the sensei answered. "First, you've almost mastered one of the most difficult throws in all of judo. And second, the only known defense for that move is for your opponent to grab your left arm." The boy's biggest weakness had become his biggest strength.