

**"BUT GOD chose what
is foolish in the world to
shame the wise . . ."**

CHAPTER 4

From **proud** to HUMBLED

SCRIPTURE FOCUS:

1 Corinthians 1:27

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READ:

26 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. **27 But God** chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; **28** God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, **29** so that no human being[might boast in the presence of God."

1 CORINTHIANS 1:26-29

OFF-TOP:

In most civilizations, people with the least are often pushed to the fringes, looked down upon, marginalized, discounted and considered useless based on man's wisdom. The wisdom of humanity is influenced by external factors such as a person's wealth, credentials, affiliations and accomplishments. These external factors are used to qualify people with whom they want to establish relationships with. These choices are frequently based on what another person can do for them.

Through man's wisdom, his attention, reliance and boasting becomes focused on himself so much so that he misses out on the knowledge of God and the rewards found in having a relationship with Him. This is the exact opposite of what God values.

In His infinite wisdom, God values those who others may consider the least. He establishes a relationship with them because they believe in Him. Not only that, He also uses them in such a way that it confounds the wisdom of men. Why?

Isaiah 55:8 reminds us God's thoughts are not our thoughts, neither are our ways His ways. God can use the unworthy to change the world! People may not understand, **But God** chooses whom He desires.

In vs. 26 of our reading today, Paul speaks to the state of people prior to their calling. What were their situations like and why do you think he highlights this?

OBSERVE

There is a television show on the A&E network called *Hoarders*. This show documents individuals who suffer from an inability to part with their belongings. Their extreme hoarding will often result in living conditions that to most would be uninhabitable. Yet, these hoarders are perfectly content. The vast majority of viewers look into these homes and see junk while the hoarders see value.

In 1 Corinthians 1:26-29, Paul teaches that those elected by God do not always align with those whom the world would deem worthy. Furthermore, for many people the very message of Jesus Christ is considered foolish. To refute this belief Paul says though they see folly, those who are saved know that the work of the cross is power (1 Corinthians 1:18).

The problem for many is that their pride prevents them from having a relationship with God. For those who are lost they boast in their belongings. While those who are saved know the only thing they can boast in is the Lord. God uses what others would discard to bring Him glory. He takes trash, treasures it and allows it to triumph. **But God!**

REFLECT

How can you use your testimony to connect with people whom God is looking to establish a relationship with?

How should relationships based on godly wisdom differ from those based on worldly wisdom?

RESPOND:

Paul reminds us that God's calling on our lives comes with purpose for our lives. In what ways can you be more intentional in living out that purpose?
